

COUNTER INFORMATION

October, November, December 93

Joy was Murdered

When the police murdered Joy Gardner on 28th July 1993 the racism of the British State, immigration laws, police force and popular press was obvious to all who could see.

Joy was a 40 year old Jamaican woman who had been in Britain since 1987 and was appealing against a Deportation Order, on compassionate grounds. She died of "hypoxic brain damage" after 8 police officers raided her home at 6.30am and restrained her using a body belt resembling slave manacles, and adhesive tape to gag her. She had no advance warning of the raid and offered no opposition to the police. Her solicitor only learned of her appeal being refused 2 hours after she died.

Nearly 7,000 people were deported from Britain in 1992, an increase of nearly 400% since the changes in Immigration laws in 1988. Also in July a Nigerian woman, Dorothy Nwoduki was deported after having had her thumbs broken, mouth taped and legs tied together by a private security firm.

No Justice No Peace

On September 8th Quaddus Ali, a 17 year old asian man was attacked in Stepney by a gang of racists and almost beaten to death. A peaceful vigil outside the hospital two days later by over 300 people led to a night of rioting after large numbers of police waded in. 9 young asians have been charged with riot. 2 weeks later another asian youth was savagely attacked in Stepney. On Sundays 19th & 26th September hundred of anti-fascists attacked and disrupted BNP paper-sellers in Brick Lane French National Front leader,



Anarchist & anti-deportation protesters in Tokyo, Japan

and the police had to intervene to save Richard Edmonds and his fellow fascists.

Anti-racist resistance to these State attacks continues with over 1,200 demonstrating on 7th August at Joy Gardner's death. On 10th July, 75 people protested outside a London police station after Rita Porter, a black mother of two was attacked then charged with assault by police after she refused to leave her local

electricity showroom until her supply was reconnected. The charges have since been dropped. On 30th August, 300 anti-fascists prevented a planned BNP march in the town centre of Burnley, Lancashire.

Combatting the State

In Paris, a neighbourhood collective has been set up to take daily action against police excesses after a number of murders & arrests of those protesting against State murder. French National Front leader,

**Close Down the BNP HQ. March 16th October
1pm Winns Common, Plumstead, London.**

Rights are Wrongs

The 7 vote victory on a 44% turnout, representing 15% of those on the Electoral Register in Millwall Ward, east London has boosted the media profile of the nazi British National Party. We have to wage a class war to fight back against despair & bigotry.

The BNP candidate Derek Beacock campaigned under their racist slogan: "Rights for Whites". There was resentment at the lack of jobs in expanded Finance & Newspaper employment in the area, overcrowding due to a lack of public housing, and unpopular Tower Hamlets Council expenditure such as a new Town Hall. "Island" dockers supported Powell's race policies in 1968, an eccentric Declaration of U.D.I. in the 1960s for the Isle of Dogs, and now a "siege" mentality scapegoating the Bangladeshis over spilling into the north of the ward after a Ring Road scheme led to the relocation of residents.

Faced with the Race Relations lobby demanding "positive" treatment for asians, & the Left tail-ending the State, the BNP have manipulated local working class anger into the cesspit of racism and diverted attention away from Big Business and the empty private houses unavailable to bangladeshi & "white" residents alike. The vote was a "silent protest" with no BNP posters in windows & few hard-core Nazi supporters. As a protest-vote it has given publicity to grievances that can be bought-off by the State reversing the run-down of Public housing and jobs.

OPERATION OPPRESS-U

WITH the threatened arrival of Operation Rescue (O.R.) in the U.K. we thought we'd look into this anti-abortionist organisation.

O.R. appears to be made up of respectable "soldiers of God" but behind their respectability are a mish-mash of nazis, ex-Klu Klux Klan grand-dragons (!) and holier than thou Christians.

O.R. picket, hassle and intimidate doctors, nurses, clinic workers, and women who have chosen to have an abortion. They picket their homes, fire-bomb clinics, and have also stayed quiet on the killing of a doctor killed by a frenzied "picketeer".

They have their own training camps where they train IMPACT teams. They learn how to terrorize and intimidate those of us who would control our own bodies and lives.

But this harrassment has been met with resistance. In USA, Britain and elsewhere, counter demonstrations have chased off the no-choice bigots in defence of abortion clinics, staff and women who need to use them. Be on the look out.

RESIST "PENSIONER GENOCIDE"
"DON'T pay VAT on your fuel bills or on standing charges.
Help keep older people alive, contact your local Pensioners Rights Group for practical ways to show SOLIDARITY.
"Loughborough Pensioners Rights Group.

The addition of 8% VAT from April 1994 and 17.5% a year later will cause "pensioner genocide" say the group, as older people have to choose between eating and heating.
Contact: Loughborough Pensioners Rights Group, c/o Gorse Covert Community Centre, Maxwell Dr LE11 ORZ Tel. 843752

UNITED NATIONS CAN'T END WAR!

The endgame is being played out in Bosnia-Herzegovina. With partition being negotiated, rebellion is growing amongst the population, including troops, against the war economy. In Somalia, UN "peace-keeping" has been hijacked by U.S. gun-toting farce. Elsewhere, the 'new world order' has become a tired cliche for "new, improved" death and destruction on a world scale.

In CI 32, 2 years ago, we denounced the "Plague of Nationalism" and anticipated a Bosnian conflict "reminiscent of Lebanon": 100,000 dead, 2 million displaced and embittered refugees, 50,000 women raped, thousands maimed & scarred by a so-called "civil" war. What was a multi-ethnic society, with low religious observance by those termed muslim, has become ethnically cleansed areas based on nationalist myth and intolerance.

The agenda of the Serbian and Croatian states has been realised with the collusion of western diplomats such as Carrington who gave the green light to partition, and the illusion of US-led intervention which led the Bosnian elite to cling to increasingly hollow threats of airstrikes*.

'Smart bombs' can't liberate

In Somalia there is no delay. Even the humanitarian aid effort has been jeopardised by the use of force often against protesters and townships. General Aideed may have used women and children as a "human shield", but the U.S. is callously using southern Somalia as a training ground for 3rd World insurgency based on the "Cortina" training at the Fort Chafee base in President Clinton's Arkansas. The U.N. has behaved like another warlord and is no longer trusted by a population subject to warlord & superpower barbarity.

Confusion on the left has accompanied the fascist glee at Balkan barbarism. The leftist theory is that each conflict demands "taking sides" with one State because it is "objectively" resisting imperialism. Hence you have the RCP siding with Serbia in the mistaken belief that western crocodile tears for Bosnia—a threat to starve and bomb the "anti-nazi" Serbs. On the other hand the German state's encouragement of Slovene, Croatian and Bosnian independence was not matched by France, USA and especially Britain. The WRP and assorted liberals argue that as anti-imperialists you must support the Bosnian State and its multi-ethnic legitimacy.

No solidarity with States

Following similar humanitarian missions, a Workers Aid convoy has taken off from the Timex picket-line to deliver supplies to the workers of Tuzla. The motives of many taking part are to be applauded. However, the interests of the ruling elite, Bosnian included, must always be viewed as distinct from the aspirations of working people, especially those in Sarajevo preserving a multi-ethnic society. In central Bosnia, revenge ethnic cleansing and atrocity, a mutual process with Croat forces, is driving a wedge between working people and promoting fundamentalism.

The selective response of the United Nations to preventing war is demonstrated elsewhere by the unrestrained Armenian advance in Azerbaijan; Unita restarting the civil war in Angola after they lost the election and U.S. support; the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia; the continued State terrorism in East Timor, Kashmir, Burma, Kurdish areas etc. The move to "democracy" in South Africa and the PLO/Israel deal for limited autonomy cannot bring 'peace'. War, death and destruction is central to capitalism on a world scale. Only social revolution can end the barbarism of nationalist conflict.

* see articles in *Here & Now* 13, c/o 28 King St., Glasgow G1 5QP & *Subversion* 13, Dept 10, 1 Newton St., Manchester M1 1HW - free, send large stamped addressed envelopes.

Cracks in the Armour ?

Disaffection is beginning to show among some soldiers in Serbia but at present their aims are confused. Serbian soldiers have taken control in Banja Luka, northern Bosnia. They are holding local officials and demanding an end to war profiteering and corruption in local government, supported by people suffering from hyper inflation. Other army units are reported to be taking similar actions, notably at Brcko.



Women in Black demonstrate against the war every week in Belgrade

In Serbia,

Trade Union officials, pressurised by angry members, called for a General Strike for August 2-6 to protest at 50% daily inflation, 50% unemployment, production down 60% since sanctions were imposed. Recent strikes have included 18,000 miners,

Unemployed revolt!

UNEMPLOYED people are rebelling against compulsory Jobplan Workshop. Claimants unemployed for over a year are being forced on to this 1 week course under threat of benefit cuts.

But many courses are ending in disarray as the conscripts argue with the "trainers" and generally refuse to co-operate. Claimants groups are leafleting the courses encouraging maximum insubordination. On 8 June 16 claimants walked out of their workshop in Lambeth.

50 Jobplan resisters stormed Brixton Job Centre on 12 July. The hour-long occupation was organised by Lambeth Unemployed Action Group.

In Edinburgh a dozen claimants halted work at High Riggs Unemployment Benefit Office on 10 August, playing drums, displaying placards and distrib-

uting leaflets against Jobplan Workshop.

Contact: Lambeth Unwaged Action Group, 12-14 Thornton St, London SW9 Tel 071 733 5135
Edinburgh Unemployed Workers Centre, 103 Broughton St. Tel 031 557 0718

COUNTER INFORMATION



Protestors take over houses in Wanstead, East London as they resist the construction of the M11 link road which involves the demolition of 400 homes

BEATING THE BULLDOZERS

Public opinion seems to be "U-turning" against the Government's gigantic, insane road expansion programme. This follows a Spring and Summer of widespread, often intense, struggle - given occasional media coverage - by a broad-based diversity of environmental eco-activists ranging from liberal middle class groups (Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth) to the more encouraging direct actionists of Earth First! and Green Anarchist.

Overcoming setbacks, the initiative has switched to the protesters, following a series of reverses for the roads lobby. This is especially symbolised by the cancellation of the £300 million road through Oxleas Wood after a vigorous campaign, and continued delays & resistance at Pollok Estate (Glasgow) and Twyford Down to Tarmac and fellow scumbags Group 4.

An appeal for more help from activists prepared for direct action has been circulated. Action is underway at Wanstead, Jesmond Dean in Newcastle upon Tyne, the Wensum and Wyndham valley road links near Norwich, the A30/303 "Improvement" in the West country, the "Tin Hat" Oxford by-pass, the Birmingham northern relief road, the M25 widenings and the Skye Bridge in Highland Region.

Usually well away from rich suburbs, road developments pose threats to health and safety of nearby residents, destroy areas of "rare natural beauty" and

drives away wildlife. Working class residents in N. Pollok, Glasgow, Tottenham/Haringey & Hornsey/Wood Green in London, and Kirkby (Liverpool) have taken action against speeding cars & business commuters after recent child deaths.

Parallel environmental actions centre around the imports of tropical rainforest hardwood by British/Multinational companies, and the "Store Wars", with green field sites for shopping malls and superstores (eg Yeovil). 38 arrests on 20th September at Faslane/Couplorthighlighted the continued nuclear convoys which speed through Glasgow and other cities. Despite slick advertising campaigns, the Thorpe Reprocessing plant at Sellafield is still being resisted. A week of action - Oct. 31st - Nov. 5th has been arranged around the old "Nuisance" period of Halloween/Guy Fawkes.

Burnsalls Battle Goes On
The strikers at Burnsalls in Smethwick, West Midlands have been attacked by scabs, the police and now they've been told by the GMB union that the strike is over. The strikers, mainly Asian women, and supporters are determined to continue the struggle and have demonstrated outside the GMB HQ. Contact: Balvir Singh, 82 Rosefield Rd., Smethwick, Birmingham B67 6DX, tel: (021) 565 5416. Cheques to: Burnsall Strike Fund, c/o 27 Firsdale Rd., Lindale Park, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton WV11 3LN

Mushrooming Pickets
Fortnightly mass-pickets (7 a.m., Saturdays) are being organised by the 89 strikers from Middlebrook Mushrooms and their supporters at the mushroom farm at Whitley, near Selby. The workers, mainly women, were sacked by Middlebrook (a subsidiary of Booker PLC) when they refused to accept a pay cut. Info tel: 0977 662923.

Miners Strike

A miners strike in the USA had spread to involve 17,000 workers across 7 states by late August. London-based Hanson PLC is one of the companies involved in attacking workers' conditions. Mass pickets of up to 1,000 have clashed with police and scabs. The miners are seeking international solidarity. UMWA, tel: (618) 942 6112

Striking Against Racism

Council housing workers in Southwark, London took unofficial strike action in July against racial discrimination and authoritarian management. Although only 36% of the workforce are black, 84% of those disciplined are black. (ContraFlow)

Nepalese Victory

Strikers at the Nepal Battery Co. of Katmandu have won 15 out of 16 demands for improvements in wages and safety conditions. The Gen. Fed. of Nepalese Trade Unions said the success was due in large part to International solidarity.

A WORLD TO WIN

Danish Demo

On 22 May 2,000 people marched in protest at the shooting of anti-EEC demonstrators on the night of Denmark's "Yes" vote to join the EEC and called for the release of 35 prisoners. The Danish consulate in Groningen, Netherlands was attacked in response to the shootings and demos and actions have taken place in Oslo, Stockholm and Berlin. (Autonomia Newsletter)

Poles Apart

Poland. 500-600 people meet in Gdansk to celebrate May Day withouts of "Factories to the Workers". The meeting was broken up by police. In Wroclaw, 300 turned up for May Day organised by Anarchist Federation and Anti-Nazi Front. In June, the Solidarnosc (Trade Union) threatened a general strike in support of health workers and teachers. The government was dismissed.

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MASS BIKING

On the 9th July about 100 cyclists rampaged through Berkeley "challenging prevailing notions of public space". Traffic on Freeway 1-80 was brought to a halt as cyclists blocked all lanes. Targets of these fortnightly rides include McDonalds and Burger King, and the San Pablo Police Station.

San Francisco Critical Mass, formed in September '92, now has 500 riding monthly.

Source: Crash.

Repression in Peru

PERUVIAN anarchist Andre Villaverde was falsely imprisoned - untried - in October 1991 on nonsensical charges of belonging to the authoritarian Marxist 'Shining Path'.

Recently, while visiting Andre inside, 2 Peruvian comrades were arrested by DINCOTE, the national security police. A third visitor from the US Love and Rage Collective, evaded prison security and left the country.

If tried, Andre will face a 'Faceless Tribunal' of sinister masked judges who disdain legal rights and rules of evidence.

These arrests, along with DINCOTE raids on anarchist homes, are part of a co-ordinated policy to discredit and destroy the Peruvian anarchist movement.

Prisoners' food must be brought by outside friends, or they starve. Money is desperately needed. Protests at Peruvian interests are welcome.

Contact: Peruvian Solidarity Project, c/o WSM, PO Box 1528, Dublin 8, Eire
All donations acknowledged.

"A Fight for Everyone"

A country-wide crisis is sweeping the Health Service. Many NHS Trust hospitals are running out of money and stopping all non-emergency NHS operations. Britain-wide some hospitals face complete closure.

But at University College Hospital (UCH), North London, workers have fought back. Nurses and porters were on indefinite strike, with emergency cover, from 17 August till mid-September to resist the hospital's closure.

As we went to press the UCH workers had reluctantly voted to return to work, following their Union Unison withdrawing support from the strike.

Earlier, other UCH staff and workers at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson and Middlesex hospitals had struck for short periods, and a general campaign to "Defend the NHS" developed.

Make Capitalism the Casualty
The resistance to the UCH closure has involved: ambulance workers refusing to move UCH patients out of the hospital; patients refusing to be moved; workers and community activists occupying a UCH ward for

We're No Washing It

AQUATIC activists made a splash with a Wash-In against Water Privatisation in Edinburgh's Water of Leith on 10 July.

This followed the Government announcement that 3 new Scottish Water Boards will replace today's Council-run set-up. Under orders to maximise private sector involvement, the Boards are a stepping stone to privatisation.

Activists are urging community-based direct action to defeat any sell-off.

Contact: Stockbridge New Town Solidarity Network 031 667 4299.

GET INVOLVED !

If you like Counter Info, we invite you to write to us, and also to the other groups listed below :
AK Distribution, 22 Lutton Place, Edinburgh (write for catalogue).
Anarchist Communist Fedn., c/o 84b Whitechapel High St., E1 7QX.)

10 days in September; BT and other workers not crossing the picket line to dismantle the wards; Camden Council workers walking out to join the picket ; porties leafleting their rounds and Goodge St. tube workers broadcasting strike reports over the station tannoy!

There have been mass pickets, three unofficial marches and occupations of the chief executive's office and UCH foyer.

Management used agency nurses to strike-break and refused strikers access to the building - five nurses were threatened with the sack for trying to provide emergency cover.

The Union, UNISON, before their final act of sabotage, sent circulars to other hospitals ordering workers not to support any unofficial action by the UCH workers.

But the strikers said "*This is a fight for everyone. We are appealing for your support.*"

Now the UCH workers are discussing how to continue the battle against the hospital's closure. Spreading the struggle to promote solidarity in local communities and in other workplaces will be vital, along with the need to oppose marketising our health-care.



Nursery Occupation

TWO nurseries on the Harvest and Springdale Estates in Islington have been occupied by a Parents' Action Group since the 5th of May. On Mayday staff were given 3 months' notice of closure despite protests from the local community. The 24 hour a day occupation aims to overturn the council decision. In Barnet, women also fought closures.

Contact : Islington Under Fives Action Group, c/o Springdale UFEC, 15a Springdale Rd., London N16. Tel. 071 923 0263

No Justice for Norman

Norman Laws, 73 year old anti Poll Tax activist has been jailed for the third time by South Shields magistrates for not paying the third and final year of the Poll Tax. This time he was given the 90-day maximum instead of the 60 days he received the last two times. Norman was dragged away before he finished attacking the court, the council and the government. From *Contra Flow*, Sept 93.

Ukraine Errupts

Starting in the mines, 700 factories were hit by mass strike action against price rises in a summer of discontent that led to the President's resignation. The action centred in the Donbass region.

A WORLD TO WIN

Easey Street

Unemployed people in Collingwood, Australia have occupied the Easey St. drop-in centre, with help from local supporters. Despite sabotage, threats of eviction and police hassle the venue is to be opened up again and used for what it should be - a local drop-in centre self-managed by local users. Angry People PO BOX 4434 Melbourne University Parkville, Victoria 3052

"Sporting Behaviour"

For the second year running and despite advanced planning by the authorities, the celebrations which followed another championship win for the Chicago Bulls basketball team turned into rioting, especially in the West and South side housing projects. Wealthy shops were attacked and over 100 police were injured. Unfortunately 1000's were injured by the police and 682 were arrested. *Wind Chill Factor*

"General Strike"

Despite threats from General Babangida's military government, a 3 day general strike demanding an end to military rule was solidly supported, especially in the commercial capital Lagos. Government offices, banks and shops were closed and public transport was brought to a standstill... meanwhile in the oil-rich south-east of the country, the Ogoni people continue to fight the state and the Shell Oil company, demanding political autonomy and more compensation for the environmental damage caused by the oil industry. Several traditional chiefs have been forced out of the community for opposing the people's tough stance .

Water Fight

In June, united action by 4,000 families in an exclusively working class barrio (district) of Mexico City succeeded in getting a 40% cut in water rates. In some areas people are only having to pay 20% of the rates. Working class people are bypassing the corrupt unions and setting up people's assemblies to organise their struggles. *Unite* 10/7/93

Attack International BM6577, London WC1N 3XX
Class War : PO Box 1021, Edinburgh EH8 9PW; PO Box 772, Bristol BS99 1EL (Britain-wide & international).
Contraflow, c/o 56a Infoshop, 56 Crampston St., London SE17 (European Counter Network, London)

DSJA, Box 8, 82 Colston St., Bristol (mail order distribution)
Glasgow Anarchists & Summer School Book : Box 1008, Glasgow G42 8AA.
London Greenpeace, 5 Caledonian Rd., London N1
Norwich Solidarity Centre and Direct Action Movement - both at : PO Box 73, Norwich NR1 2EB
Stockbridge New Town Solidarity Network, c/o J. Ball, 24 Dean Pk. St., Edinburgh EH4 1JT
Tottenham Solidarity Network, c/o 72 West Green Rd., London N15
Wind Chill Factor, PO Box 81961, Chicago, IL 60681, USA.

COUNTER INFORMATION is produced by an independent collective, based in central Scotland. Our aim is to assist in the struggle against all injustice, oppression and exploitation. We invite you to - send us articles and info - subscribe to Counter Info and take bundles of CI to distribute (donation requested) - make a much-needed donation (Stamps welcome. Cheques/P.O.'s to Counter Information. Write for a standing order form.) Please write if you are interested in becoming involved in the CI collective. We can provide addresses of anti authoritarian revolutionary groups, and movements to resist injustice (eg anti racist and community solidarity groups), in most areas of Britain. **COLLECTED BACK ISSUES 1 - 37 £6 FROM CI EDINBURGH.** For info on CI distribution and revolutionary activities in the north of England please write to fellow collective members at Counter Info, c/o 52 Call Lane, Leeds LS1 6DT. For all other matters please write COUNTER INFO, PIGEONHOLE CI, C/O 11 FORTH ST., EDINBURGH EH1, SCOTLAND.

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Stay in touch !

Boycotting Timex

"We have lost everything. All we have left is the fight". Roger Letty, Timex striker.

THE Timex workers are continuing their battle against the multinational following the closure of the Dundee factory on 29 August.

Despite innovative grass-roots initiatives, the struggle has so far been unable to definitively break free from the dead weight of trade union/STUC bureaucracy; the aim of the most militant workers - occupying the factory before it closed - was not realised.

Contact: Timex Strike Committee, c/o AEEU, 2 Union St, Dundee Tel 0382 22406
Edinburgh Support Group Tel 031 556 0903

Nevertheless the international workers' and consumers' boycott of Timex is developing. 14 sacked workers picketed the Timex plant at Besancon, France, for 2 weeks in September, and further visits are planned. An international Timex workers conference is on the agenda.

The new Timex office in Forfar is picketed daily. And Support Groups, such as in Edinburgh, are picketing H Samuels and other shops selling Timex watches.



COUNTER INFORMATION

February, March, April '94

STOP THE ROBBIN VATMAN!

35,000 PEOPLE die every year from the cold. Now the Tory government plan to cause an extra 10,000 deaths annually by adding Value Added Tax to fuel bills. This will mean electricity and gas bills going up 8% in April and 17 1/2% a year later. The government's paltry "compensation scheme" will do little to help.

But some communities are preparing to resist. Drawing on the experience of the successful anti poll tax fight, activists are working towards :

- * Mass non-payment of the Value Added Tax (VAT) part of electricity and gas bills.
- * Direct action against British Gas and the electricity companies.
- * Local community networks to support non-payers and organise blockades to stop disconnections.
- * Appeals to electricity and gas workers not to carry out disconnections.

It appears that electricity companies may have to enter consumers' houses to re-set the meters of those on power cards. A mass denial of entry would set back their plans! April and May will see those on payment books especially hard hit, and widespread actions against gas and electricity showrooms are

needed then.

In Edinburgh local groups pledged to resist the robbin' VATman are forming in Broughton Inverleith, Gorgie Dairly, Muirhouse Pilton, Stockbridge New Town, and Wester Hailes. A Lothian-wide conference is planned.

The Welsh Socialist Party (Cymru Goch) are discussing an anti VAT strategy based on mass non-payment, community action to stop disconnections, and pickets and sit-down protests in showrooms.

In the Midlands, Loughborough Pensioners Rights Group are calling for non-payment, and local groups are forming in Birmingham.

In London, Hornsey and Wood Green Solidarity Group and Green Lanes Community Action organised a NO VAT ON FUEL public meeting in February. They say "We can't rely on politicians or leaders to do things for us - we've got to organise and do it ourselves."

CONTACT: Edinburgh-Stockbridge New Town Solidarity Network 031 667 4299. Wales - Cymru Goch, PO Box 661, Wrexham LL11 1QU. Midlands - No Fuel Tax c/o PO Box 85, Balsall, Birmingham B12 9RL. London - Haringey's Solidarity Groups, PO Box 2401, London N8 9LR.

BACK TO BASICS

LIGHT, heat and fuel for cooking are basic needs. There is no shortage of gas or electricity. In a sane society, where resources were communally owned and used directly to meet humankind, fuel would be supplied free.

The resistance to VAT on fuel will hopefully develop beyond a defensive single issue battle, and become part of the struggle to build up a people's counter-power. The aim should be to enforce the right to warmth and other human rights through mass direct action.

Crunch Time for McDonalds
AS McDonalds tries to silence its ever more numerous critics, 2 unwaged London Greenpeace supporters are defending themselves against the transnational corporation in a major libel case.

The trial starts 28 February. The Judge has ruled there will be no jury. There were protests worldwide against McDonalds in October including 500 marching in London and 48 London branches of McDonalds being leafleted.

Demonstrate at the start of the trial - High Court, the Strand, London 9.30am 28 February.

Protests against McDonalds and in support of the McLibel 2 - Sat 26 Feb. **everywhere**. Saturday after the verdict - picket your local McDonalds.

21 May - Free Speech Day - picket your local McDonalds -again! "Now is the crunch time in terms of defending free speech. We must defy these censorship threats before, during and especially after the trial," said a Support Group spokesperson.

CONTACT and donations - McLibel Support Group, c/o London Greenpeace, 5 Caledonian Rd., London N1 9DX. Tel 071 837 7557 or tel/fax 081 808 4265. Leaflets £12 per 1,000 0602 585666.

Clashes Europe-wide

WITH the bosses trying to maximise their profits throughout Europe, with mass unemployment, wage cuts and low wages - workers across the continent have had enough :



Workers in Italy take to the streets
GERMANY

Oct. - 120,000 construction workers protest against government plans to end winter lay-off payments. 200 towns and cities see the unemployed demonstrate against the proposed dismantling of the welfare state.

FRANCE

late Oct.

- Air France ground staff strike to oppose 4,000 lay-offs.

As thousands of workers occupied the runways at Orly and de Gaulle airports, postal, telecom, rail, Metro and bus workers come out in solidarity - and join a 30,000 strong demo through Paris.

Farmers, also in dispute with the government, gave the strikers food.

As the strike went on transport minister Bosson resigned - and the government promised to look into the strikers' demands.

This strike was won without the role of the Unions - most strikers are non-unionised. The Unions, however, negotiated a return to work.

29 Oct. - ground staff hold a sit-in at Air France HQ in Paris.

26 Nov. - Students demanding better conditions clash with police in Paris. Paris metro workers strike

against cuts in public funding.

ITALY

A fierce, though fragmented and not always successful, resistance to redundancies has seen workers' demos, occupations and blockades. Taranto workers occupied their steelworks in December, while in September in Crotone, Enichem workers successfully used phosphorus bombs to defend their occupied factory against the police!

Tens of thousands march in Rome, Milan and elsewhere to support the "self-organised" 12 Nov. national strike.

Thousands of schools and colleges have been occupied and run by their students. 11 Dec. - 600,000 students demonstrate in 70 cities against privatisation and cuts.

SPAIN

25 Nov. - millions demonstrate against economic policies and labour "reform" proposals. 28 Jan. - 1 day general strike paralyses the country.

BELGIUM

26 Nov. - 1 day general strike to oppose proposed 3 year wage freeze on public sector workers meets with widespread support.

EVERYTHING NOT FORBIDDEN....

"BUT IT'S THE LAW". How often have we heard that plaintive whine during the anti-poll tax campaign. The law. Whose?

The latest batch of government draft legislation illustrates, yet again, whose law it is. The right to silence is to be abolished. Squatters, hunt-sabs and Travellers will be crushed in the name of 'public order', as will raves and all night parties. Protest and alternative lifestyles will be criminalised. This same legislation will inevitably be used against pickets and demos.

Britain's regional police forces are to be centralised into a National Force. A state police, in effect, oiling the wheels of coercion, easing convictions, and turning the heat beneath the pressure cooker prisons. Great Britain PLC already jails a greater proportion of its citizens than any other European country, bar Turkey. The overwhelming majority of prisoners are working class, most sentenced for offences against property and money. 2,000 have done time for poll-tax refusal.

Privatised prisonships might pressure-valve the seething jails, but the lid must inevitably blow. Meanwhile, prisons will be built for children. Suffer, little children.is now compulsory

Snoopers, bailiffs and sheriff-officers abound, and those areas as yet unreached by pig and prison are policed by a legion of government agencies. The Child Support agency is creating havoc. Means-tests are increasingly strict and humiliating. Work-for-dole schemes run rampant. Homeless youngsters are commonplace.

The new tax on domestic fuel means freezing misery for millions. Privatised water companies have already disconnected thousands, leading to a resurgence of typhoid fever amongst the very poorest. But it's the law.

'The Law', wrote Robert Anton Wilson, 'isn't supposed to make sense. It's just supposed to make us frightened of the government.' The Law is a set of rules designed to maintain the tiny elite of rich parasites in their position of ease - affluence and luxury, using uniformed thugs and bewigged blunderers to enforce this mass-repression. Meanwhile the rich elite continues to rob and exploit us, raping and pillaging the planet in the process. Shoplifting and benefit fraud are savagely punished while corporate tax evasion and monstrous corruption are smilingly tut-tutted. Demonstrators get harsher sentences than those who willingly poison our rivers. The real criminals go free.

'But it's the Law'. So was the poll tax, and that was smashed to smithereens by mass grassroots revolt. Stuff the Law. RESIST!

NO CHANGE THROUGH SECTARIANISM

What is the Anglo-Irish "Downing St. Declaration" all about?

At the risk of over-simplifying:

- There have long been secret talks between British secret services, MI6 and Sinn Fein.
- MI5 have been involved in supplying arms to the loyalist paramilitaries.
- The British state will gain economically if it can gradually withdraw from the north of Ireland.
- Greater North / South ties may benefit Six Counties businessmen.
- But politically the British government cannot be seen to be defeated by the Republican movement.
- The slender Tory commons majority gives the Unionists the power to stall progress indefinitely and behind them stands the threat of war waged by the loyalist terror gangs. Centuries of carefully fostered bigotry are blowing up in the British state's face.
- The "Catholic" ghettos have seen much genuine community resistance to British state repression, from the army to the rigged judicial system.
- But as long as the IRA / Sinn Fein control this resistance, it will remain in a nationalist dead end with no prospect of links with "Protestant" workers.
- Eager to progress towards some share of political power, Sinn Fein are emphasising nationalism even more. Their always bogus socialism (of the state top-down variety) is becoming less and less prominent.
- The prospect of class interests becoming predominant over sectarian ties is unlikely in the near future - but class struggle remains the only way forward.

LILLEY SHOWN THE DOOR

On 25th January, 20 protesters from the Campaign Against the Child Support Act daubed the front door of Lilley's London house with slogans.

The mysogenist manouevrings of Peter Lilley, Social Security Minister, the Child Support Act is meeting with resistance. The Child Support Act is just part of the Tories moral crusade which has at its heart the desire to protect capitalism.

While the mainstream media has been concentrating on cases of dads being made to pay more than they can afford, on the whole

INSIDE INFO

MENTAL TORTURE

In June '87, Gary Hayes was questioned, beaten and tortured by police in Scarborough, Perth, W. Australia - an attempt to get a confession from him for robbery. Following this brutality, Gary saw a doctor, who, favouring the police, minimised the injuries. After a voluntary consultation with a psychiatrist, who told Gary he was stressed but would be o.k., he was arrested and taken to Grayslands psychiatric hospital for assessment. There he was told the police hadn't beaten him but that he was having 'paranoid delusions'. Then Gary was forcibly given chlorpromazine, making him feel as if he'd been possessed and suicidal - side effects of the drug.

In late '87, Gary was convicted of robbery and continued getting beatings from the police. Fearing for his life he bought a gun. When the police next raided his house, Gary was charged with possession of a firearm. Court date was set for 28 April '93.

Knowing the court would not listen to reason or truth, Gary decided to bring attention to his plight. He took an 11 tonne armoured personal carrier from army barracks and at dawn on 28 April '93 drove to the pig station where he'd been beaten and then to the police HQ, ramming police vehicles at both before



smashing into the front of the central law courts.

Gary was remanded in Casurina prison and on 25 August '93 was forcibly injected with fluphenazine, which can cause permanent brain damage. The effects on Gary when we last heard included memory loss, dribbling and speech impairment. Since Gary has become more complacent, Grayland's Dr O'Dea sees this as an improvement, intended to keep Gary on fluphenazine for 12 months without review. Fluphenazine, in effect, is a chemical lobotomy.

Gary was due to be sentenced in late '93. It is likely that Gary was convicted and is still being forced to take fluphenazine. For updated info' and to find out how you can support Gary, contact: Angry People, PO Box 183, Waterloo, NSW 2017 Australia.

SHORT SHARP SHOCK

On 5 January, only hours after a leaked Scottish Office memo warned that prison-spending cutbacks would inevitably cause 'disturbances', 22 prisoners in Glenochil Young Offenders Institution in Scotland took over and wrecked the prison's A-hall. A screw was held hostage for 15 hours before the mutineers called off the occupation which was reportedly occasioned by the lack of treatment for HIV-positive prisoners.

Dublin: communities resist hard drugs

Recent months have seen the re-emergence of the Dublin-based Concerned Parents Against Drugs movement which in the 80's single-handedly tackled the problems of hard drug addiction and the anti-social crime it caused in the city's working-class communities.

The open, democratic CPAD groups held public meetings open to the whole community, addicts and alleged dealers included, and were responsible for evicting proven pushers who refused to stop dealing and lobbying the health services to provide treatment for addicts whilst organising what assistance they could. (Report Class War No.61)



Once the authorities realised they were being undermined by such community self-management, they set out to attack the movement and the subsequent assault by politicians, media, police and the courts caused it serious damage.

Now the movement has re-emerged in response to Dublin's worse than ever hard drug problem, which has been encouraged by unemployment rates which run as high as 80% in some inner city areas and run down housing estates lacking adequate amenities allied to the drug culture which has developed over the last few years. In a recent demonstration, 100's of people marched on the council, demanding the right to prevent known pushers from moving into their areas and that suitable community and recreational facilities be provided.

In

a flats complex, some dealers were given 24 hours to get out after their homes had been marched upon and others have been confronted on the streets. A vigil took place at the entrance to another flats complex where a woman was intimidated by a dealer and "Anti-pusher patrols" have taken to the streets again.

Viva Zapata! Land and liberty!

On October 12th '93, 10,000 native Indians gathered at Santa Domingo in San Cristobal, Chiapas and pulled down the statue of Diego de Mazariegoes, one of Mexico's Spanish conquistadors. It was also the 501st anniversary of Columbus' landing in the "New World".

Less than 3 months later, on January 1st, the Urban Front of the EZLN (Zapatista National Liberation Front) issued the following: "We are fighting against the violence of poverty, the violence of hunger and of electoral farce," when it called on students and trade unionists to join its insurrection and "to attack in a thousand ways".

The EZLN was named after Emiliano Zapata, a main figure in the Mexican revolution of 1910-11 whose call-to-arms was "it is better to die on your feet than to live on your knees" and who was always in dispute with the ruling elite.

The uprising started as a peasant revolt in the Chiapas, Southern Mexico, demanding land reform, a change of government and the scrapping of NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) which moved Mexico into a "free market" with the USA and Canada.

The EZLN captured four towns; Altamirano, San Cristobal, Chanal and Ocósingo. 238 prisoners, many of them Mayan Indians in land disputes with rich white landowners, were liberated from 4 prisons.

It is also stated that the police disappeared and "were hiding un-



der their beds".

In Guadalupe Tepecyac, under Zapatista control, there is no official authority. The community is run by a committee chosen by a village assembly which decides which steps to take.

The government has moved a third of its armed forces into the Chiapas area to recapture the towns which the EZLN has controlled. The army started bombing and burning the surrounding villages, carried out summary executions and closed off the area to reporters.

The EZLN regrouped in the surrounding mountains where numbers are said to be in the "several thousands" and released a statement aimed at the army: "We warn you, Mexican soldiers, young like we are, that this struggle will be going on for years. Your generals don't care about you. They are using you. Don't

kill innocent people." In another statement, they affirmed their commitment to women's full equality.

On January 11th, the Mexican President de Gortari sacked his interior minister who was unpopular with the Mayan people in the south.

After 12 days the army said it had regained control of the Chiapas area, although electricity pylons were being blown up throughout Mexico and on January 16th, the President proposed a general amnesty to all rebels in the Chiapas.

As the dust settles for the present, the latest peasant uprising proves that the dispossessed still have nothing to lose and their dignity is still worth fighting for. (We have received several EZLN communiques and reports from Love and Rage. Please send a SAE if you require copies.)

A WORLD TO WIN

CORRIDORS OF EMPOWER
A victory to prevent the closure of Springfield Under-Fives Centre led to jubilant dancing in the corridors of Islington Town Hall on 22nd Nov '93.

SOUP WITHOUT BATONS
134 Foods not Bombs activists were arrested in San Francisco during September, with 27 charged with felony conspiracy "to commit lunch". This follows State harassment in nearby Santa Cruz and Boston (Mass) (Info Slingshot)

RUSSIAN CUTS RESISTED
Anti-Privilisation struggles by workers continue throughout the former USSR. In Novosibirsk, barbers occupied their premises to resist a lease association which would have ended their self-management. Residents of Dachny (far-north of Siberia) resisted a decision to bypass consultation with them before transferring their food store to a private company, and blockaded traffic and forced Yeltsin to sign a resolution keeping their workers collective at the foodstore.

FREE EAST TIMOR!
Darwin demonstrators splattered red paint over the Indonesian Airline office on 19th November to highlight the 270 killed in a 1991 demonstration in Dili and the 250,000 killed by Indonesian troops since the invasion.

BOOKER HA HA HA!
40 sacked mushroom pickers from Middlebrook picketed the Booker Prize awards in London on October 26th '93 against the multinational company. Surprisingly, the protestor's book "Our Bitter Harvest" was not shortlisted! Pickets continue at Whitley, Yorkshire.

VICTORIAN VALUES?
An occupation at Richmond Secondary College has become a symbol of resistance to the authoritarian Victoria State Government of Bjelke Kennett.

ACT UP IN LEEDS
Organised a March through the City centre on International AIDS day promoting "safe sex" and highlighting HIV research cuts.

GOVERNMENT SHAKEN
After angry demonstrations on 5th January in Sanaa, Hodeida & Taiz, the Yemeni President announced measures to control spiralling prices & deployed troops to deter a repeat of the violent December '92 riots.

NO WAY FELIPE
In December, over 1,000 people demonstrated in Madrid in support of civil disobedience against the imprisonment of *insumisos* (objectors to military and social service conscription). There are currently 115 *insumisos* in Spanish state prisons. At least 45 have taken advantage of the open regime by not returning to prison after being released.

On the 30th October, 5 Asturian districts of Nalón were on general strike following a call by workers at the Duro Felguera company after the sacking of 232 of their colleagues. The entrances to the company's central office and local government offices were burned. It's the 6th general strike in the area in the last 28 months during which there have been demonstrations in Oviedo.

ROADS TO RUIN

WITH the car industry making millions for the government through taxes, road tax, petrol etc., plus the power of the giant car companies, it's no wonder the go ahead for so many



The "Old Chestnut Tree" occupied by anti M11 activists in London (photo Black and White and Green)

which cause 70% of the road deaths in Bangladesh. Protesters want lorries restricted to night-time driving.

7 DECEMBER - 200 police and 150 security guards evict protesters - some of them residents staying in a 250 year old tree! - who are opposing the building of the M11 road through London. The road will cost in excess of £200 million - money that could be used for hospitals or education. Squatting protesters have saved 16 houses from destruction and delaying tactics have cost £20,000 per week.

1 JANUARY - 100 local demonstrators walk to Twyford Down, Winchester, to "first-foot" the M3. Protesters laid lumps of coal to signify an accident black spot.

CONTACT Green Anarchist (Box M) and Earth First (Box E) both at 111 Magdalen Rd., Oxford OX1 1RQ

Taking the Offensive

Community based campaigns are becoming more prominent in the fight against racism and fascism in a way outside initiatives alone could not. *Newham Monitoring Project* was set up 12 years ago to monitor and campaign against racist attacks. It has since provided support and advice to individuals and groups in the area, including recently the *Tower Hamlets 9 Defence Campaign*, the *Newham Community Defence Campaign* and the *Justice for Oliver Campbell Campaign*.

These organisations highlight the need for active community defence using any means necessary, to counter racist and fascist attacks, including those from the police & the State. The *Tower Hamlets 9* face charges of riot after defending a peaceful vigil for racist attack victim Qudus Ali from attacks by the Police.

Contact T.H.9. Defence Campaign, POB 273, London E7. Tel: 081-548-0099 N.M.P., 382 Katherine Rd, London E7 8NW. 081-552-6284 (Emergency 555-8151).

Recent anti-fascist resistance includes:-

- Front National leader Jean-Marie Le Pen's visit to Montreal on September 21st led to the hall being splashed with paint and its windows being smashed.
- In Chattanooga, Tennessee an illegal anarchist demo was held against the Ku Klux Klan's plan to disrupt a Gay Pride demo & support the killing of a black motorist by police. (Source L&R*)

- KaSa al facua, anti-fascist skins have been attacking fascists in Madrid, Spain. Info KR@APDO 156.225 28080 Madrid, España. * 100 anti-fascists engaged in violent scuffles with police protecting a right-wing Reform Party election rally on October 22nd in Victoria, B.C., Canada (Source: Resist! +*)
- Anarchists mobilised in New Hope, Pennsylvania, U.S. to counter a planned Nazi rally. (*Info: Love & Rage)

- After the BNP election victory in the Isle of Dogs and at a time of escalating racist and fascist violence in the area, 40,000 marched on 16th Oct calling for the closure of the

demonstrators threw stones and set a fire engine alight during clashes with police after an anti-nazi demo on 12th Nov. (from Greek @ bulletin)

- On 27th Nov, 3,000 on the annual anti-racist march in Glasgow. After the demo anarchists chased nazis through the streets.

• On 30th November, Anti-fascists in Sweden mobilised to prevent a nazi celebration of warrior king Karl XI

- Faced with inhumane immigration restrictions on her husband, Lejla Ibrahimovic, a Bosnian muslim, committed suicide on 4th December.

- *Class War* (Winter 93/94) reports BNP Councillor Beacock was hospitalised in Oct 93 after an attack by 3 masked men in a park near his



bunker.

• Hundreds of Jamaicans visiting relatives for Xmas were deported under the Asylum Act, not allowed any defence.

- On 15th January '94, 150 nazis were attacked outside East Ham Underground Station by anti-fascists as they attempted to prevent the harassment of Clinics, successfully defended in North America from 'Operation Rescue', in Philadelphia, Minneapolis, San Diego, and San Jose. Liberal mainstream tactics were not sufficient & only direct action was effective.

HEALTHY OCCUPATION

The University College Hospital Community Action Committee organised the occupation of a closed ward at the London hospital from 19 October to resist health care cutbacks. Police 'upheld democracy'

by evicting the occupiers shortly before Xmas. On 20th November, 20,000 demonstrated in London.

Source: BM CRL WC1N 3XX.

PISS ON PITY

On 26th November '93, members of the Disabled Peoples Direct Action Network and their supporters disrupted a regional 'Children in Need' event in Leeds. Protestors, angry at the patronising attitude of such events, stormed into the building shouting and chanting "Rights not Charity", forcing the organisers to cancel the TV Broadcast.

RICE ROBIN

4 gunmen hijacked a truck with 500 sacks of rice in Manila on 27th December & gave it away to squatter colony families before escaping.

COUNTER INFORMATION is produced by an independent collective, based in central Scotland. Our aim is to assist in the struggle against all injustice, oppression and exploitation. We invite you to - send us articles and info - subscribe to Counter Info and take bundles of CI to distribute (donation requested) - make a much-needed donation (Stamps welcome). Cheques/P.O.'s to Counter Information. Write for a standing order form.) Please write if you are interested in becoming involved in the CI collective. We can provide addresses of anti-authoritarian revolutionary groups, and movements to resist injustice (eg anti racist and community solidarity groups), in most areas of Britain and many overseas areas. Collected BACK ISSUES in Folder, £6 from Edinburgh address. For info on CI distribution and revolutionary activities in the north of England please write to the Edinburgh address since Leeds address defunct at present. For contact with Glasgow CI & other interests: write COUNTER INFORMATION Pigeonhole CI c/o 11 FORTH ST., EDINBURGH EH1, SCOTLAND.

CI 39 went to press 31-1-94.

A WORLD TO WIN

DAMN THE DEBT

NIGERIA'S military rulers were rocked by rioting and a general strike in resistance to massive fuel price rises in November. 3 million took strike action. But Union leaders negotiated a sell-out, red-ucing the rise from 600 to 360%! Such austerity measures are demanded by international capital to enforce the repayment of debt. CONTACT the libertarian socialist Awareness League, c/o S.M.B.A.H., PO BOX 28, AGBANI, ENUGU STATE, NIGERIA.

SMOKING RUINS

Rioters reduced government buildings to smoking ruins in Santiago del stero, Argentina in mid-December after protests against President Menem's draconian austerity programme.

PROPERTY PULPED

An attack on the power of multi-national corporations was made recently in Karnatik, India by 200 peasants aligned to KRRS whose "non-violent direct action" included razing a seed unit to the ground and ransacking the Office of Cargill Seeds in Bangalore. (Info Freedom)

FORCING SPUC OFF

Rallies of anti-abortion SPUC in Glasgow & Edinburgh in mid-March will be opposed by pro-choice protesters determined to prevent the harassment of Clinics, successfully defended in North America from 'Operation Rescue', in Philadelphia, Minneapolis, San Diego, and San Jose. Liberal mainstream tactics were not sufficient & only direct action was effective.

GET INVOLVED!

We invite you to write to us, and also the other groups listed below :

- AK Distribution, 22 Luton Place, Edinburgh (write for catalogue)
- Anarchist Black Cross National Secretary, c/o PO Box 3241, Saltley, Birmingham B83 DP (prisoner solidarity).
- Anarchist Communist Federation, c/o 84b Whitechapel High St, London E1 7QX (contacts Britain-wide)
- Anarchists in London Fax 071 326 0353 (24 hours) to contact Contraflow, 56a Infoshop, Anarchist Black Cross, 121 Centre, and Bad Attitude.
- Angry People, PO Box 183, Waterloo, NSW 2017 Australia.
- Attack International BM6577, London WC1N 3XX
- Class War : PO Box 1021, Edinburgh EH8 9PW : PO Box 772, Bristol BS99 1EL (groups Britain-wide & international)
- Contraflow, c/o 56a Infoshop, 56 Crampton St., London SE17 (European Counter Network, London)
- DS4A, Box 8, 82 Colston St., Bristol (mail order distribution)
- Glasgow Anarchists : write Box 1008, Glasgow G42 8AA.
- London Greenpeace, 5 Caledonian Rd., London N1
- Norwich Solidarity Centre and Norwich Direct Action Movement - both at : PO Box 73, Norwich NR1 2EB
- Stockbridge New Town Solidarity Network, c/o Peace & Justice Resource Centre, St. Johns Church, Princes St., Edinburgh.
- Tottenham Solidarity Network, c/o 72 West Green Rd., London N15
- Wind Chill Factor, PO Box 81961, Chicago, IL 60681, USA.

(If your group would like to be considered for listing, write CI.)

COUNTER INFORMATION

Summer 1994

Kill the Bill

Over 20,000 people demonstrated through London on 1st May in protest at the Government's flagship Criminal Justice and Public Order Bill which seeks to seriously limit, amongst other things, the rights of squatters, travellers and hunt sab.

Some sections of the Bill will criminalise unauthorised camping, squatting, assemblies of more than 20 people and amplified music at night while repealing the Caravan Sites Act which provides Britain's gypsy population with its only secure sites. Other aspects of the Bill are also very worrying: increased detention for young "offenders"; electronic tagging to enforce curfew orders; weakening of right to silence; denial of bail for people rearrested on bail (allowing police to act as judge and jury); new stop and search powers for police; a new offence of disrupting a legal activity (aimed at hunt sab). Prison officers will also be banned from taking industrial action and, while screws are hardly deserving of sympathy, the ban may have implications for other public sector workers like fire fighters and health workers.

Info: Organise!, ContraFlow; Advance Party Network, POB 3290, London NW2 3UJ; Campaign Against CJB, POB DIY, 15 Goosegate, Nottingham

Fighting Fascism begins with resisting racism

In the wake of fascists (National Alliance) becoming coalition partners in Italy with Berlusconi's media creation Forza Italia & the Northern Leagues led by Bossi, the prospect of the far right in Government is no longer a fantasy.

Continued 'shake out' of workers from industry, State policies to hound immigrants and a succession of corruption scandals affecting centrist and parliamentary socialist Parties, have boosted support for fascists, both in terms of electoral support and heightened racist attacks throughout Europe.

Fascists fall

In Britain, the fascists failed to win seats on May 5th in the local elections. However, the B.N.P. attracted considerable support in pockets of east London. By-election victor Beckon & his 2 running mates were defeated by Labour in the Isle of Dogs but polled 28% in an unprecedented 65% turnout. With similar votes in docklands wards in Tower Hamlets and Newham, the B.N.P. are well placed to challenge for the new Docklands parliamentary constituency. The Newham Monitoring Group was active countering racist support for fascists and overtly racist Tory candidates. Elsewhere in Britain, fascist support was patchy, with National Front candidates getting up to 10% in isolated wards in the west Midlands.

Outside courting respectability, the fascists are still launching cowardly attacks on targets. 32 fascists from ex-coalfields in Notts/Derby were arrested after causing damage and assault (including on a disabled woman) in Nottingham's 'Mushroom Books' on 15th January. A large local

anti-fascist march was mobilised in solidarity. In retaliation, a North London BNP leader was visited by "council workmen" and given a severe beating.

The fascist menace posed by Column 18 etc is still much less significant than State harassment. In January, the Tahir family in Blyth, Northumberland received local working class support to resist deportation. An attack by police on 21st January with dogs and truncheons against blacks leaving the 'Checkpoint Charlie' nightclub in Manchester led to serious injuries. On 5th February, a lively demo was held outside Hackney Town Hall to protest against Stoke Newington police's campaign of terror against Turkish and Kurdish families. On 8th February, Bangladeshi Maktar Ahmed was attacked by 20 white youths in Bethnal Green, 5 of whom were arrested and bailed. 400 demonstrated their anger 3 days later. 130,000 racist attacks were recorded by the Government's own records for 1993.

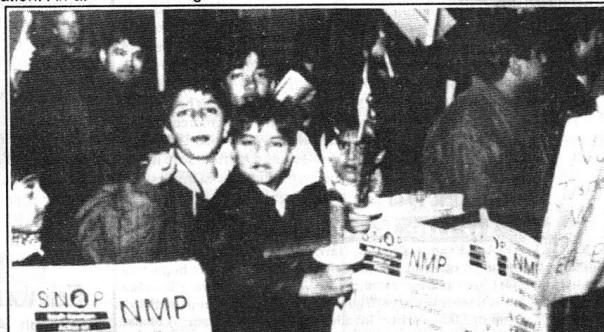
Here to stay

Pickets continue surrounding deportations. In Birmingham, on 21st March, a picket was held of 'Immigration Adjudicators' in support of Prakash and Prem Chavrianookoo. 5 days later, a vigil outside Oxford's Campfield Detention Centre highlighted the plight of 200 detained in squalid conditions. In Pentonville Prison, London, 13 detainees went on hunger strike in February.

Throughout Europe State rac-

ism is being resisted. In France on 31st January a black teenager was shot while joyriding. 1000 police attacked a 2000 strong anti-fascist picket of an election rally in Hanover, Germany by the Republican Party fuhrer, Schonhuber. In Italy, half a million people in Milan joined the 50th anniversary march commemorating the resistance's role in defeating Mussolini's fascism.

A huge 'black bloc' of 50,000 squatters, autonomists and anarchists tried to storm the National Alliance HQ, while police also stepped in to defend 200 Lombardy League members trying to join the march. We appeal for reports of resistance, worldwide against fascism and racism. Plus info from: Newham Monitoring Project, 382 Katherine Rd., London E7 8NW. Tel. 081 555 8151.



Newham Monitoring Project and friends picket Plaistow police station, London

Beast besieges cowering Councillors

THE DRUMMING built to a crescendo, his dancing grew ever more frenzied, then suddenly the grotesquely-garbed *Beast of Broughton* flew across Edinburgh's historic Parliament Square and hurled himself at the doors of Lothian Regional Council Chambers.

Councillors peered nervously from windows as street theatre performers, speakers and musicians all declared - Edinburgh Unemployed Workers Centre stays open! The 25 May demo was the latest shot in the battle to save this vital self-managed centre.

As we went to press the Centre was preparing to resist a Council eviction notice. This was due to

take effect on 14 June - unless last minute negotiations, which aimed at a new lease being granted to first the local Community Council and then to a new charitable body, were successful. The Centre voluntary workers are backing this plan, which if agreed should enable all the Centre's activities to continue.

The Centre provides a cheap vegan cafe, creche, bookstall, darkroom, advice on benefits, space for meetings and social events, and is a base for claimants and others to organise resistance against social injustice.

Help save the Centre! Contact: EUWC, 103 Broughton St., Edinburgh. 031 557 0718.

50 Years of Slaughter for PROFIT

The obnoxious D-Day commemorations, happening only 3 days before the Euro-Voters' Big Day on 9 June, are emphasising British uniqueness in the European partnership, and all that rubbish.

But even if Vera Lynn's disgusting crocodile tears start to flow once again, knowledge of the past remains important. We should remember how the British authorities had forewarning of the blitz of Coventry but allowed it to happen. Remember the blood baths when Allied aircraft bombed Devon, with heavy loss of life, in practice runs for Normandy—and the slaughter once British and American forces arrived on the coast of France. Remember the German Jews who were locked up by the British authorities. Remember how strikers in northern Italy were bombed by both sides, and how millions were shipped from German camps straight into Soviet ones. Remember the hypocrisy of the statesmen who portrayed the German concentration camps as justification of their own rule and then went on to set up their own camps in Kenya and Algeria. In short, remember that the ruling scumbags in one place always have more in common with ruling scumbags elsewhere than they do with the poor. War is always brilliant for business.

RESISTANCE - LEST WE FORGET

But above all remember the resistance to the various oppressions. In Britain, for example, many men managed to avoid military service, and many women avoided being forced into war work as cheap labour. Women at Rolls Royce and elsewhere on Clydeside struck for equal pay, often supported by men. In Glasgow engineering apprentices and bus conductresses also struck. When bakers in Dundee refused to work night shifts, their work was taken over by soldiers, who were obviously subject to a much stricter regime. A strike by trolleybus workers in Stamford Hill in London was similarly broken by the military. Strikes occurred in mining, engineering, and the docks. Air raids were commonly used as an excuse for absenteeism; some people were willing to stay at their workplaces if sirens went off during tea-breaks, but not if they sounded during worktime. Remember too, that this was a time when strikes were not only opposed in every instance by the unions—but since July 1940 they were also illegal. In 1941, when miners at Bettleshanger in Kent struck anyway, 1000 of them were fined, and three jailed. An all-out strike forced their release, and only 9 miners paid their fines. After this, the strike ban, technically in force until 1951, was a dead letter, smashed by wildcat action. In 1944, the year of D-Day, 716,000 workers were on strike, more than any year since 1926.

The national unity which the authorities are trying to whip up with D-Day 'celebrations' wasn't totally successful even then. So don't be conned. It's always been the rich against the poor. It was us they slaughtered in Iraq, us they're killing in Bosnia, us they killed in all the wars since 1945 'east of Suez' and in Africa. World War 2 was no different. Our rulers are mass-murdering monsters, and nations are just vile myths they use to oppress us.

REMEMBER 1944 — GO ON STRIKE!

"To the Runways!"

THE STRIKE by Air France ground staff last October against 4,000 redundancies, a wage freeze and the abolition of bonuses holds important lessons. On 20 October transport minister Bosson declared this plan "irrevocable". On 24 October the French government withdrew the plan. Why? Because for 5 days up to 3,000 workers invaded the Roissy, Orly and Toulouse runways and stopped all freight and passenger traffic.

Riot police were driven off. "The lads drove into the cops with runway vehicles and the cops ran away," explained a striker. Solidarity was exemplary—on 25 October, 3,000 Orly strikers went to the police and successfully demanded that all charges against strikers be dropped. To the Union Bureaucrats' dismay the Union-called assemblies were quickly terminated by cries of "To the runways!" But there were weaknesses. The workers did not co-ordinate between sectors and sites outside of the Unions. And the Unions were able to negotiate a return to work without a signed agreement withdrawing the redundancies. The movement needed to spread more to other industries.

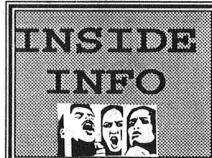
Nevertheless the Air France strikers have shown all workers the formidable power of mass workers' direct action. See *Contra Flow* 3/94 for extensive report.

The Cape of False Hope

"We will vote for Mandela, but if he doesn't give us what we want we will fight against him" (Black school student activist)

The South African Election witnessed huge popular enthusiasm for change. The queues of patient voters have already been used by political rulers everywhere to remind us 'voters' how grateful we should be. Yet new policies in housing and education are unlikely to meet expectations.

Workers with demands for wage rises and improved conditions at work will pose a challenge. Unrest will threaten in townships, and opposition groups within and outside the ANC will attempt to manipulate the frustration for their own ends. Even the 'majesty' of Mandela, and the ANC compromise with the National Party and the economic rulers, will not protect South African capitalism from this explosion of expectation.



Remember

Winston Silcott

REMEMBER Winston Silcott? Winston was one of the Tottenham 3, brutally framed for the murder of PC Blakelock in the 1985 Broadwater Farm uprising. The convictions were quashed after an intense mass campaign.

Gary has since been sentenced to four and a half years. Like Winston Silcott, another activist has been taken off the streets.

Letters of support to : Gary Hayes, Casuarina Prison, Locked Bag 1, PO Kwinana WA 6167, Australia.

Support John Perotti

IWW activist, John is on hunger strike after a forced move back to Lucasville prison. Protest letters to Hon.S. Arthur Spiegel, Judge Chambers U.S., District Court, 838 Post Office Boulevard, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, USA.

Carrying the torch

WHEN an anti racist demo at the University of Minnesota last October was attacked by Nazi skins the demonstrators defended themselves. Kieron Frazier Knutson was charged at by a bonehead wearing brass knuckles. Kieron decked him with a flashlight.

The police set the bonehead free. Months later, Kieron was charged with 2 counts of felony assault and faces 3-10 years in prison.

His trial is set for 20 June, and his Defence Committee is asking anti fascists everywhere to phone-blitz his prosecutor, Attorney Mike Freeman, on (USA) 612-348-5505.

Anti Fascist Defence Committee, c/o Minneapolis ABC, PO Box 7075, Minneapolis, MN 55407, USA

Nightcrawlers

IN the face of increasing repression and mass imprisonment of the poor and disenfranchised, the Anarchist Black Cross is growing in the USA, and is holding a national conference in New York, August 19-21.

Komboa Ervin's pamphlet *A Draft Proposal for an Anarchist Black Cross Network* and conference details from: Nightcrawlers ABC, PO Box 20181, Tompkins Square Station, New York, NY 10009, USA (send donation to cover post/printing)



Komboa Ervin

to Paul Nolan" said another local. Councillor Nolan is one of those who are trying so hard to shut down the Edinburgh Unemployed Workers Centre.

Tearing down the walls

LAST issue we reported how Gary Hayes, after years of police persecution, retaliated by taking an armoured personnel carrier and using it to smash into the local police HQ and law courts.

Gary has since been sentenced to four and a half years. Like Winston Silcott, another activist has been taken off the streets.

Letters of support to : Gary Hayes, Casuarina Prison, Locked Bag 1, PO Kwinana WA 6167, Australia.



The McLibel 2 Sue

AFTER McDonalds launched a national leaflet at all their stores attacking their critics for being "liars" the McLibel 2 - two London Greenpeace supporters being sued by McDonalds - launched a "counter claim". This puts the onus on McDonalds to prove their allegations at the trial.

The non-jury trial now starts on 27 June and is expected to last 3-4 months. It is thought that McDonalds are withholding masses of relevant documents.

Protests are called for 25 June and 16 October (World anti McDonalds Day). It's time to wipe Ronald's silly grin from his face!

Leaflets from 0602 585 666 (£12 per 1,000) McLibel Support Campaign c/o London Greenpeace, 5 Caledonian Rd., London N1 9DX. tel.071 837 7557.

Act Local

Magnificent Seven

SEVEN workers from Harvest Printers in Macclesfield, sacked in July 1993 for refusing to sign contracts which would have forced them to disown their union and work overtime whenever the company demanded, have set up a picket in the town's Park Street. Enquiries / donations to: Sacked Seven, 39 Bond St., Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 2D7.

Homes for All

ON THE 28th February, over 50 members of the Freedom Network of squatters and travellers occupied 411 flats in Central London with the aim of repairing them (including re-connecting water and electricity supplies) to provide accommodation for London's homeless. Local residents have donated food and clothing. The occupation also highlights opposition to the Criminal Justice Bill. 2 St. Paul's Rd, London N1 2QN. **Weans' World**

THE OCCUPATION of the Springdale nursery in Islington, north London, had entered its tenth month in February, as the council had made no preparations for its the reopening despite a vote to keep it open being won at the Joint Local Government Committee and Labour group mtg. **Whitehall Blocked**

ON 18 MAY, disabled people demonstrated their disgust at the Government's treatment of the Bill which is supposed to guarantee their civil rights. Protestors threw themselves onto the road and handcuffed themselves to buses, and blocked Whitehall in central London.

Poll Tax Occupation

TWO Sheriff Officers' premises in Glasgow were occupied on 14th February by protestors demanding an amnesty for all Poll Tax non-payers in Strathclyde, causing severe disruption. Several people were arrested. And on 1 March 27 arrests were made a demo outside the Regional Council's Glasgow offices.

Vigil Ends

A 486 DAY vigil at ex-Parkside Colliery in Lancashire ended when 18 bailiffs evicted the Women Against Pit Closures camp on 18th May. A 7ft wire-mesh fence mounted on concrete blocks was placed across the entrance with a permanent steel fence behind it. The women vowed to prevent the shaft being filled.

Outrage !

FURIOUS lesbian and gay protestors attempted to storm Parliament on March 14th following MPs' failure to lower the gay age of consent to 16, the same as for heterosexuals. 5,000 had held a vigil outside the House of Commons. When news of the vote was received, protestors broke through barricades, charging the main entrance. After police blocked the doors, demonstrators sat down in Downing St. and stopped traffic around Trafalgar Square.

Blockade!

17 were arrested as 50 people delayed a nuclear convoy for nearly 2 hours on March 21 outside Faslane Peace Camp: Shandon, Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire, Scotland. (Faslane Focus) Tel: 0436 820901. In May sea going protestors defied a nuclear sub.

ECUADOR

100,000 teachers, on strike since 4 Oct, returned to work in Jan with a 50% pay rise.

USA

December, 18 *KinderCare* childcare workers in Raleigh, North Carolina strike for higher pay, one of the first strikes by childcare workers in the US. With Glasgow Univ. a week later.

Seeds of revolt

In India a grassroots movement has formed to protect the future of seed.

The power of multinationals to control the genetic information of life itself has been greatly extended under GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) and companies have placed patents on animals, micro-organisms, the brain coding of human beings etc.. Western multinationals are trying to steal indigenous plants and knowledge from Third World people and turn what should be a common human resource into a trade commodity. The seed trader company Cargill even claims to own pollen and speaks



POSTMAN PAT WON'T PAY VAT!: picket of Scottish Power in Edinburgh on 2 April

VAT - Don't pay it!

THE GOVERNMENT added 8% Value Added Tax to fuel bills from 1 April - signing the death warrants of the extra 10,000 people who will die every year from the cold, because of the higher bills. But—there is resistance. Pit camp supporters repossessed coal from Parkside Colliery, Merseyside on 1 April in a direct action against both VAT on Fuel and mine closures. Next day 50 people from Lothian Communities Against VAT on Fuel occupied British Gas showrooms and picketed Scottish Power in central Edinburgh. Hornsey and Wood Green Solidarity Group have picketed the Wood Green gas showrooms 3 times. In Glasgow hundreds of demonstrators invaded the St. Enoch shopping centre after the anti VAT demo on 26 March.

"The best way to defeat VAT on Fuel is to do it the poll tax way - to cause a huge amount of disruption by refusing to pay the VAT portion of our fuel bills," a Stockbridge New Town Solidarity Network leaflet.

"1) When you get your first blue electricity or gas bill—ignore it. 2) When you get the red reminder—only pay the main part of the bill. Don't pay the VAT part. 3) Don't let the meter reader in... 4) If threatened... ring your local group." **Resistance so far is patchy. Community self-organisation must spread.**

CONTACT : Lothian - 031 557 0718. (*Postman Pat won't pay VAT!* posters available). Wales - North : 0978 843401, South : 0222 830029. London - Hornsey & WGSG, PO Box 2401, N8 9LR. Lambeth Unemployed Action Group : 071 733 5135.

Smashing way to change

40,000 young people and students held a victory parade on 31st March in Paris after the French Government caved in to their demands. Casseurs ('smashers' - disaffected youth) left a trail of destruction during the celebration attracting tear gas from the riot police. The march also called for the release of demonstrators detained in earlier actions and the return of two Algerians deported after the Lyons disturbances.

Throughout France, notably in Lyons, quarter of a million students had demonstrated throughout France against plans of the conservative Government to reduce the minimum wage for people under 26 by 20%. This scheme only applied to young people with less than two years higher education. This attempt to increase divisions based on qualifications was resisted by school-students, students and the unemployed. With 23% unemployment amongst under 25s, anger was widespread against a system of poverty, little training and exploitation.

Faced with falling profit rates, the Prime Minister, Balladur, tried to implement capital's aim to drive wage levels downwards in a climate of insecurity. In the last few years, under Socialists and conservative coalition Governments, 50% of French workers are employed with no job security leading to an attack on wages and conditions.

Following the example of Air France strikers, and peasants, the protests limited the power of left parties and unions whose aim is to defuse discontent and contain unrest. Instead,

a climate of confrontation and direct action forced the Government to capitulate. The repressive power of the State was unable to counter spontaneous demos, sit-ins, rail and road blocks & other tactics. Loose 'coordinations' bypassed official channels. Although not revolutionary in aims (unlike the rhetoric of 1968), they prevented protest from being stifled. Worldwide, such self-organisation is essential to inflict more defeats on the ruling class.



Paris, 31st March - the French Government's wage cut plans for youth shot down in flames.

Spanish General Strike

The Spanish general strike on 27th January, in response to the Socialist Government's labour reforms, brought major cities to a standstill. Hundreds of thousands joined pickets and demos, often clashing with police. In Granada, 400 pickets were attacked with rubber bullets and gas, injuring 9, and 40 people were arrested in Barcelona following running battles.

As well as massive demos in Madrid and Barcelona, there were large demos all over Spain: 40,000 in Seville; 25,000 in Gijón; 90,000 in Oviedo; 20,000 in Córdoba. There were numerous reports of people breaking away from the Socialist (UGT) and Communist (CCOO) unions' official demos in favour of direct action tactics.

The reforms constitute massive attacks on workers' rights, allowing companies to replace people on permanent contracts with a cheap and temporary workforce. The new apprenticeship contract for under-25s runs for up to 3 years, with pay at 55% to 75% of the minimum and no unemployment benefit rights at the end. Part-time workers will lose the right to unemployment benefit, pensions and protection when sick. With 3.5 million unemployed and 1 million families without a wage, the reforms will force people into low-paid jobs with almost no protection.

(Javier, Barcelona; ANA, CNT)

GET INVOLVED !

- We invite you to write to us, and also to the other groups listed below
- **Active Distribution**, BM Active, London WC1N 3XX, (catalogue 29p+SAE)
 - **AK Distribution**, 22 Lutton Place, Edinburgh (write for catalogue)
 - **Anarchist Black Cross National Secretary**, c/o PO Box 3241, Saltley, Birmingham B83 DP (prisoner solidarity).
 - **Anarchist Communist Federation**, c/o 84b Whitechapel High St., London E1 7QX (contacts Britain-wide)
 - **Anarchists in London** Fax 071 326 0353 (24 hours) to contact Contraflo, 56a Infoshop, Anarchist Black Cross, 121 Centre, and Bad Attitude.
 - **Angry People**, PO Box 183, Waterloo, NSW 2017 Australia.
 - **Bad Attitude**, 121 Railton Road, London, SE24 0L, UK. Tel: 071-9789057
 - **The Centre**, 103 Broughton St., Edinburgh EH1. Tel: 031-557 0718
 - **Class War** PO Box 1021, Edinburgh EH8 9PW PO Box 772, Bristol BS99 1EL (groups Britain-wide & international); PO Box 4297, DUBLIN 1, IRELAND
 - **Contraflo**, c/o 56a Infoshop, 56 Crampton St., London SE17 (European Counter Network, London)
 - **DS4A**, Box 8, 82 Colston St., Bristol (mail order distribution)
 - **Glasgow Anarchists + GAReview (soon)**: Box 1008 Glasgow G42 8AA.
 - **London Greenpeace**, 5 Caledonian Rd., London N1
 - **Norwich Solidarity Centre and Norwich Solidarity Federation** both at: PO Box 73, Norwich NR3 1QD
 - **Stockbridge New Town Solidarity Network**, c/o Peace & Justice Resource Centre, St. Johns Church, Princes St., Edinburgh.
 - **Tottenham Solidarity Network**, c/o 72 West Green Rd., London N15
 - **Wind Chill Factor**, PO Box 81961, Chicago, IL 60681, USA.
(If your group would like to be considered for listing, write to CI.)

Zapata Worldwide

MEXICO

On 10 April, tens of thousands of indigenous people and peasants rallied throughout Mexico to commemorate Zapata. Much support was pledged for the January uprising which seems to have united peasant organisations more. 70 groups have set up camps in Mexico City where they'll negotiate for better living standards and civil rights. In Paris, 18 Jan, an EZLN (Zapatistas) support group occupied the Mexican embassy for 4 hours. An EZLN spokesperson says "we are not structured to take power, we do not want it" and insist their only ideology is "either we die or we live with dignity"

INDIA

Calcutta : After being locked out for demanding unpaid wages, workers occupied a jute mill on 18 Jan. Production was restarted and workers' committees set up with a communal kitchen. Jute workers throughout the region sent support messages but the courts, ordering the occupation illegal, closed the mill. A worker, unpaid for six months, died of starvation at the mill on Jan 1st. Reginald Brealey, owner of Sheffield United F.C., also owns the mill.

Assam State: Police killed 4 tea plantation workers who demanded unpaid wages

Delhi: 10,000s protested at the Indian govt. signing the GATT deal in April.

SERBIA

A 10 week strike by Radio Pancero against Serbian government censorship ended in January. The end of '93 saw several other strikes: 12,000 hospital workers in Kraljevo struck for a week against low pay & bad conditions; 15,000 railworkers struck against "a bad union under state control"; a strike by 60,000 miners and power workers caused 2 days of power cuts.

PAKISTAN

On 27 May, hundreds of children marched to demand the end of child labour. 19 million children work; 8 million in carpet & other factories.

GREECE

Jan: 100 people threw eggs and paint at the police station in Moshato, Piraeus in protest at the murder of Giakus, a musician killed by a cop who was himself attacked by furious crowds when released from court

INDONESIA

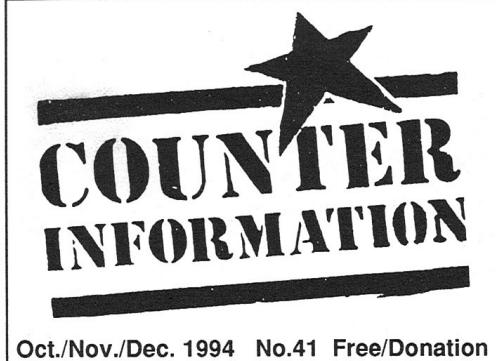
40,000 workers on strike in Medan, Sumatra demanding pay rises and an public enquiry into the death of a spokesman. Independent unions throughout Indonesia grow as militancy challenges State run unions.

ISRAEL / PALESTINE

Peace activists defied arrest to distribute leaflets on Jerusalem-Bethlehem road against emigre settler occupation in Palestine. Info: The Other Israel POB 2542, Holon 58125.

COUNTER INFORMATION is produced by an independent collective, based in central Scotland. Our aim is to assist in the struggle against all injustice, oppression and exploitation. We invite you to send us articles and info - subscribe to Counter Info and take bundles of CI to distribute. Cheques/P.O.'s to Counter Information. Write for a standing order form.) Please write if you are interested in becoming involved in the CI collective. We can provide addresses of anti authoritarian revolutionary groups and movements to resist injustice (eg anti racist and community solidarity groups) in most areas of Britain and many overseas areas. Collected BACK ISSUES in Folder, £6 from Edinburgh address. For info on CI distribution and revolutionary activities in the north of England please write to: CI, PO Box HP171, LEEDS, LS6 1XX. For contact with Glasgow CI & all other interests: write COUNTER INFORMATION, c/o 11 FORTH ST., EDINBURGH EH1, SCOTLAND.

CI 40 went to press 31/5/94



ACT OF DEFIANCE

THE LAST 2 months have witnessed many more protest actions, demos, benefits, etc., against the Criminal Justice Bill which is shortly to be passed regardless - which is when the real fight begins.

Most towns of any size now have groups with more people getting involved all the time. "DIY week" (September 19 - 26) saw various demonstrations in Northampton, Manchester, Bath, Croydon, Huddersfield, Brighton, Canterbury, Brixton, Leicester, Guildford, Lowestoft, Norwich, Nottingham, Sheffield, Oxford, and Hastings. The week before saw a largish demo in Edinburgh and the big demo in London on 9 October. 33 people were arrested in clashes with the police after the Hyde Park Rally. Particularly encouraging was the opening of the massive community squat against the CJB in Brighton in September. This old courthouse has dozens of rooms with an infoshop, bookstore, vegan cafe, gig and theatre spaces, creche, art gallery and is always busy with events and people.

Fight the Fluffiness

More depressing and dangerous is the unfortunate point that in most areas the Freedom Network and their newly found pacifist allies, mostly discovered in the "hippyish" elements within the environmental movement and the festival/techno scene, are growing in numbers and influence.

They encourage people to "keep it fluffy" - join hands, sing songs, sit down and in some cases grass on "violent agitators" to the co-operative boys in blue. Many of us thought with relief that libertarian politics had mostly rid itself of such naive and deadend ideology back in the mid-1980s, we must now struggle once again to destroy this bullshit, it's even more of a

pain than the SWP/Militant/RCP trying to sabotage/take over our activities. Of course we dislike violence, but recognise it as an often necessary tool in the class war against our oppressors by any means necessary. In any confrontation watch out for these people - they are not on our side. The real fight against the criminal justice bill will start when it becomes law, don't be intimidated, together in strength we can resist it on many fronts making it unworkable.

Contact : Brighton Squatting Centre against the Criminal Justice Bill, The Old Courthouse, 17 - 19 Princes St., opp. Royal Pavilion, Brighton. Sou'iders Against the CJB, c/o Gorbelt Centre, 39 Inglefield St., Govanhill, Glasgow.

Refugees resist

UP TO 700 refugees are being detained in detention centres and jails every month, up to 200 being deported monthly. The 1971 Immigration act allows people seeking asylum from oppression to be held indefinitely, without charge.

At Campsfield House Detention Centre in Oxfordshire 99% of the detainees are black. A clear attempt to divide the working class along national boundaries, the refugees have suffered racial abuse, attacks from staff, being moved at short notice and in 1991 Omasasi Lumumba was murdered by officers in Pentonville.

However detainees have fought back. In March a hunger strike by detainees spread to 10 other jails and detention centres. On 26 March demonstrators chained up

the centre gates and then broke into the grounds. In June hundreds attended a national demo and a riot inside caused £20,000 worth of damage while 6 people escaped. The Campaign to close Campsfield demands no detentions and no deportations - write c/o 111 Magdalene Rd., Oxford OX4.

FIGHT THEM BACK

Despite the state's attempts to criminalise them communities continue to defend themselves against racism and police brutality. In May a group of 20 white men threatening people with baseball bats and bars were driven out of the area by young Asians in Dowlash, Sheffield. The police response was to drive the racists around the corner and release them.

A spontaneous demo against a planned BNP meeting in the area, however, found the police descending in riot vans and arresting 8 anti

The Centre fights eviction

THE first application of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act may be by a Labour Council against community activists, the majority unemployed, some homeless.

The Centre, in Broughton St. Edinburgh is barricaded and awaiting attack by sheriff officers. On 16 Sept. the Labour Lothian Region - the Centre's landlord - obtained a "move to eject" decree.

The Region has no other use planned for the building. They are refusing to grant a lease to the local community council - a proposal which would enable the Centre to continue. The Region are out to destroy an autonomous space which has long been a base for direct action and grass-roots struggles.

Ironically the Centre - formerly Edinburgh Unemployed Workers Centre - has never been busier, with a thriving cafe and busy crèche, well-used meeting spaces, a darkroom, a reading room, community arts space, music workshops, claimants' resistance and benefits advice, frequent socials and so on. During the occupation the Centre remains open to the public and all activities continue.

The attack on the Centre is part of a general attack on self-managed community resources the world over. The attack must be resisted, and we need help to keep the Centre open. Write, phone, turn up, join the occupation! Viva La Centre!

The Centre, 103 Broughton St., Edinburgh EH1. Tel. 031 557 0718.

Below: Centre supporters demonstrate in Edinburgh on 1 Oct.



fascists. Hundreds of people from the local community formed a defence campaign and organised a public meeting and pickets; demanding an end to police harassment, all charges dropped and successfully forced an independent enquiry into Altercliffe police. The charges were eventually dropped or reduced.

In July local Asians came to the defence of a cab driver in Rotherham who was beaten by a gang of white men. As the racists got away 6 young people were arrested. Locals marched on the police station and 2 nights of rioting followed.

In Scotland opposition continues to BNP activists Gavin Robertson, a Scottish Office employee, and Gus McLeod at Glasgow's Burrell Collection.

Info : CARF magazine, BM Box 8784, London WC1N 3XX. Contraflow.

NO JUSTICE! NO PEACE!

The I.R.A. cease-fire may offer Peace. Will it bring justice?

A propaganda battle, largely fought on American TV, has yet to alter the way people live in the north of Ireland. The British troops are less 'battle ready', yet plastic bullets have been used in catholic Belfast, and, the infamous Paratroop Regiment is about to be 'deployed' in West Belfast. The European Union wants to bring down the huge dividing wall between loyalist and catholic ghettos and substitute 'environmental improvements', yet in North Belfast a new wall is planned to keep apart battling revellers in a park. Early September saw local people in Co. Fermanagh, Ireland, taking action to open roads across the border which the British army had closed for "security reasons". The army closed the roads again but locals came back and reopened them again - even using a bulldozer. The British state is torn between promises to the Unionists at Westminster, the US role and the financial dividends of 'troops out'.

One of the groups in Ireland which has consistently opposed the presence of British troops, while recognising that Republicanism is nationalism rather than revolutionary socialism, is the Workers Solidarity Movement. We reprint part of their recent "Statement".

"We welcome the cease-fire. Over the past 25 years over 3,000 people have been killed and 40,000 injured. Thousands have been through or are still in prison. The primary blame for these deaths and all the associated suffering belongs to the British State. No cease-fire has as yet been declared by the British State. Likewise the loyalist paramilitaries have not yet declared a cease-fire, and have killed Catholics and bombed a Sinn Fein office since the IRA ceased their military campaign. In these circumstances the IRA cease-fire will not bring peace, much less justice.

A Compromise with Imperialism

Some on the left will see the IRA cease-fire as a sell-out. We don't. The politics of nationalism were always going to lead to a compromise with imperialism, it was only those with illusions in the republicans' 'left turn' that thought otherwise. It has been clear for a decade, even to the republicans, that the armed struggle was going nowhere. Britain could not be defeated militarily, and Sinn Fein could not expand on its vote either in the North or South. With the reaching of a compromise in El Salvador, South Africa and Palestine it became no longer a question of 'if' but one of 'when', and the logical conclusion of the republican strategy.

The 'peace process' will not deliver a united socialist Ireland or significant improvements apart from those associated with 'demilitarisation'. In addition, it represents a hardening of traditional nationalism and an alliance of all the nationalists, Fianna Fail, SDLP, Sinn Fein and the Catholic Church. Republican statements have focussed on the need for a De Klerk type figure to lead the Protestants to compromise.

Depending on developments, it may be also become easier over the next few years (for revolutionaries) to begin a more sustained approach to Protestant workers. To date this has been almost impossible due to the fact that loyalist death squads have targeted and even killed revolutionary socialists and anarchists who attempted to work in their community while maintaining a principled opposition to imperialism.

Building on Sand

If the peace holds, the next few years will be a test of our ability to build a viable alternative to the bosses, north and south. But we are aware that 25 years ago the British State smashed something (the Civil Rights movement) much more modest than what we propose, with armed force.

In the short term it would be possible to build workers unity on day to day economic issues without mentioning partition but it would be building on sand. In the past, working class unity has been swept aside on a tide of bigotry. This will be a real test (and) it is where the cease-fire assumes its international dimension. All over the world the authoritarian left has collapsed due to the inadequacies of its politics. Our success or failure depends on our ability to convince people of our politics, demonstrate the ability to fight and win, and give people the confidence to change society. This is the process that can lead to a lasting peace with justice."

The full version of this can be obtained from POB 1528, Dublin 8 or via e-mail an64739@anon.net.fi Read an alternative view in Organise, magazine of the A.C.F.. Send large SAE for sample, address on p.4.



Villagers celebrate the premature -- and short-lived -- reopening of a cross-border road

Stop the Strip-Searches

LAST YEAR 40 women workers at Asda in Barrow, Cumbria, were stripped and searched for a missing £10 note. This was a frightening widening-out of strip-searching which is deliberately degrading and humiliating and frequently used on prisoners. In Maghaberry prison in Ireland 22 women prisoners were brutally strip-searched by male and female screws.

The Stop Strip-Searches Campaign is organised to publicise and oppose the strip-searching of women prisoners and has leaflets, info, badges and videos available.

SSSC, PO Box 104, Sheffield 1.

ACTIVISTS NEED SUPPORT John Perotti; Still Fighting On

For some years now Inside Info has reported the relentless struggle of IWVW prison union organiser John Perotti. Recently, after another hungerstrike, John was freed from solitary and transferred to general population in Lucasville prison, Ohio, scene of a recent bloody riot. Almost immediately, he was stiched-up by 2 screws against whom he'd won a lawsuit years ago. Flung back into solitary, John has also lost visiting rights and access to legal materials. John is a self-taught, qualified lawyer and helps other cons to fight their cases. Andy of the John Perotti Defence Fund says: 'A major problem seems to be that John's name has become so well-known over the years that people don't notice it anymore. Nearly everyone seems indifferent these days, but John needs our help just as much as he ever did.'

Like Salvatore and John Perotti, John Bowden is classed as a 'dangerous subversive' and as such is, like the others, kept in solitary and at the top of the screws' hit-list. He needs letter of support.

John Bowden 1273/94, HMP Perth, 3 Edinburgh Rd, Perth, Scotland.

A Danger to Whose Society?

Originally jailed for belonging to the revolutionary underground, Salvatore Cirincione was recaptured in December 1992 after 8 years on the run. Frequently beaten and tortured by screws, Salvatore now suffers from haemorrhage and serious infections. His left testicle has been removed, his pelvic bones are smashed and his 'genital apparatus is dead'.

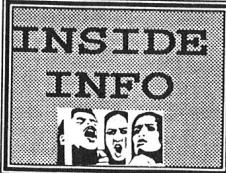
After a hungerstrike Salvatore's current state of health is precarious. The Italian Ministry of Justice is

refusing him medicine and treatment. The prison authorities justify this savage treatment by saying that Salvatore 'is an active Anarchist' and a danger to our society'. Obviously they intend to let him die as a warning to others.

SALVATORE NEEDS MONEY TO STAY ALIVE.

DONATIONS: London ABC, c/o 121 Railton Rd., London SE24.

SUPPORT: Salvatore Cirincione, Carcere di San Vittore, Milano, Italy.



Bowden Unbowed

John Bowden is another campaigner for prisoners' rights and a frequent contributor of in-depth supportive articles on prison resistance. John escaped from prison and was recaptured after 18 months in Scotland last June. His escape was motivated by a knowledge that, after 12 years inside, he would never be released until he was 'broken, subdued or murdered'.

Like Salvatore and John Perotti, John Bowden is classed as a 'dangerous subversive' and as such is, like the others, kept in solitary and at the top of the screws' hit-list. He needs letter of support.

John Bowden 1273/94, HMP Perth, 3 Edinburgh Rd, Perth, Scotland.

CAN'T JAIL THE SPIRIT

In top-security Perth Prison in September cons gave the screws a lesson in mutual aid. Prisoners in C-Hall set off the staff alarm and when the screws rushed to the 'trouble-spot' the cons in E-Hall broke into the canteen and liberated all tobacco, tea, sugar, sweets, groceries and soft drinks. "The whole thing was planned and executed like a military operation" said one con. "It went like clockwork. It's the biggest feast we've had since getting locked up!"

After a hungerstrike Salvatore's current state of health is precarious. The Italian Ministry of Justice is

COUNTER INFORMATION



Anti roads protestor stops digger at Solsbury Hill, Bath. photo Julia Bayne.

THINK GLOBALLY ACT LOCALLY

Time to save our beautiful planet is running out. We need to match the bravery and determination with which Glaswegians are fighting to stop the proposed M77 that would carve up the 1018 acre Pollok Estate in Glasgow.

learning from each other. The personal is political and living together cooperatively is a challenging political act. Direct Action demands that you trust the people you do it with - that's one of the reasons it's a force for real political and social change. It works; in Britain the government has delayed one third of its road plans due to the powerful anti-roads campaign.

Another long established (12 years) Free Zone is Faslane Peace camp where the struggle against the nuclear menace continues. Constant direct action and Mass Actions such as the Spiral and Rust Actions physically defy the convoys and security guards.

Foiled

In Gorleben, a small German village, the 20 year fight of its residents with the support of grassroots environmental groups continues. The government want to build a reprocessing plant or to bury high level radioactive waste in the area. The nuclear industry has been foiled by demonstrators

Food not Bombs

WITH over 735 arrests since 1988, San Francisco's Food not Bombs continues serving free vegetarian food and advocating the rights of the poor.

Since former police chief Frank Jordan began his "Quality of Life" MATRIX programme to "clean up" San Francisco for tourism, the homeless have seen their blankets/belongings tossed into rubbish trucks and been ticketed for "camping", public urination, and simply existing as homeless people.

Food not bombs volunteer Frank McHenry has been singled out and been stalked and assaulted by Jordan's cronies, arrested 92 times since 1988, held on bails up to \$75,000, and given such trumped-up charges as "felony possession of a milk crate" and "felony assault". The assault charge occurred when the artery in Frank's hand was severed attempting to stop a City Hall glass door being slammed on himself and his 71 year old companion.

The ideals and vision of the group and its 50 N. American sister groups are spreading rapidly and gaining support... PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL GATHERING THE WEEK PRIOR TO 26 JUNE 1995! On the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations in San Francisco, protest and organise for human rights! Contact Food not Bombs, 3145 Geary Boulevard no.12, San Francisco, CA 94118, USA. Tel. (415) 330 5030. Frank Jordan's tel. no. is (415) 554 6113.

building a hut village on the proposed site. 1,000 people have taken up residence in the village and 300 people blocked a railway line likely to be used by the convoy. Mysterious tunnels have appeared underneath roads which would cause them to collapse if the 120 ton transporters were to drive over them. Next came a police eviction of the village and a ban on all demonstrations. Now after continued campaigning the ban has been lifted and the transporter containers plan has been delayed due to 'technical difficulties'.

Also in Germany, the Earth Liberation Front has declared 31/10/94 to 6/11/94 to be an International Action Week. It's a time of sabotage and mischief... against road construction, vivisection labs, corporations with poor workers' rights track records (ie. all of them) and oppressive state legislation. ELF say "It is hoped that with enough imagination groups can create enough chaos to disrupt whole transport, power and communications networks".

M11

Meanwhile the campaign to prevent the M11 continues despite 60 people being arrested and 10 charged on August 2nd after bailiffs and police cleared protesters from 3 of the houses they've been occupying in Claremont Road, London E11, on the route of a link road.

On the 6th September, 2 men who were part of a gang hired to burn down an anti-M11 camp last December, were jailed for 6 years between them. However their paymasters, who put up £12,000 for the raid, have escaped prosecution due to "insufficient evidence". Pollok Free State - write Glasgow Earth First!, PO Box 180, Glasgow G49AB. Tel. 041 636 1924.

No M11, 66 Claremont Rd., London E11 4BE. 081 558 2638. Earth First Action Update, dept. 29' 1 Newton St., Manchester M1 1HW

Act Local

Balloch Blockade

Activists from the Faslane Peace Camp, supported by large crowds of local people, blocked the nuclear convoy for 45 minutes at Balloch Roundabout on the 29th July. 15 people were arrested.

Hostel under Attack

Workers who have occupied the Peterloo Housing Association hostel for the homeless in Manchester to prevent its closure are under threat of eviction by the hostel's management. The occupation, made necessary after the Labour controlled city council slashed its funding, has received large public support.

Solidarity Works

York postal workers went on lighting strike on the 1st July after a shop steward was suspended - he was reinstated the same day. And on the 20th July a bus driver, sacked after arguing with his boss over proposed roster changes, was reinstated when his colleagues staged an immediate one-day strike.

Candid Cameras Contested

Glasgow soon will have joined the growing number of towns like Aldridge with closed circuit television cameras. Four square miles of the city centre will be under constant 24 hour surveillance. Some crime will shift to other areas to suit businesses. By watching our every move, the cameras will also be used to monitor direct action and other demonstrations.

In Glasgow, the anarchists among us, are opposing this and welcome news from home & abroad.

The Girls and Boys Done Well

Tabriz, Iran: late August saw demonstrators attack public buildings, radio and TV headquarters and set fire to buses and bank offices after the Basij volunteer police attacked women leaving a football match (women are banned from attending matches). 1,000s came onto the streets chanting "death to this oppressive regime".

McLIARS!

TWO unwaged people are taking on the mighty McDonalds multination in a libel trial. McDonalds have sued Dave Morris and Helen Steel, alleging that a London Greenpeace fact-sheet libelled McDonalds.

The trial in London is expected to last till at least March 1995. The opening week saw Helen and Dave grilling 'Big Mac' - McDonalds UK president Paul Preston. Denied legal aid and refused a jury, Helen and Dave have still forced damaging admissions from McDonalds witnesses.

It is clear that McDonalds exploit their workers, destroy rainforests, produce polluting packaging, cruelly rear and kill animals - all to make millions from unhealthy junk food.

McLibel Support Campaigns are active in Spain, Australia, New Zealand, Italy and the USA. McDonalds have been picketed Britain-wide. 15 October sees a national demo in London.

Show solidarity by - distributing *What's wrong with McDonalds* leaflets - attending the court - making a donation - picketing your local McDonalds.

Contact: McLibel Support Campaign c/o London Greenpeace, 5 Caledonian Rd., London N1 9DX. Tel./fax 071 713 1269. Leaflets £12 per thousand - 0602 585666. McDonalds Workers Support Group, c/o TU Support Unit, Colin Roach Centre, 10a Bradbury St., London N16 8JN.

POSTMAN PAT'S FIGHTING BACK

80,000 POSTAL workers have walked out unofficially in the last year to resist attacks on their wages, conditions and organisation.

Post Office bosses are preparing for privatisation. To make the postal service an even juicier prize for the fat cats in the city they aim to shut many sorting offices and cut 6,000 jobs.

The trade union (UCW) has been doing deals with management and trying to control and stop any effective action.

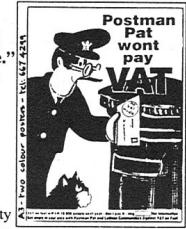
But workers' direct action has won victories. In late June P.O. counter workers across E.London struck without a ballot after workers were suspended for refusing to accept cuts in mealbreaks. Now management have restored the lunch breaks. Also in June 30,000 sorting staff in SE England took unofficial strike action.

Disregarding the law, spreading the strikes and involving post office users in the struggles - these are the ways forward. See Class War 64 for a longer report.

DON'T TAKE VAT

ACTIVISTS opposing the imposition of VAT on fuel are increasing their activity in the run-up to the November budget, which will decide whether VAT on electricity and gas bills will double to 17.5% in April 1995.

Lothian Communities against VAT on Fuel and Water Privatisation have published an excellent leaflet detailing how people can collectively refuse to pay VAT. As they say, light and warmth are "basic human needs which



should be free." Leaflets and posters from - Stockbridge New Town Solidarity Network, c/o Peace and Justice Centre, St. Johns, Princes St., Edinburgh. Tel. 031 557 0718 (Mike). - Tottenham Solidarity Group, Box 12, 72 W.Green Rd., London N15. Tel. 081 802 9804.

Protecting the ruling class in Haiti

The so-called restoration of democracy to Haiti is a total fraud. The same 5 rich families who bankrolled the junta, and ousted Aristide after his populist election victory, will be protected by the US 'invasion'.

A few fall-guys in Praph, the death squads encouraged by US Intelligence 2 years ago, will take the rap for the hundreds of thousands of poor haitians wiped out, or driven to become 'boat people' (like poor Cubans) - many of whom have drowned. US investment in the island based on wage rates as low as 14 cents an hour will become respectable again, and if Aristide and his supporters don't toe the line, the US will throw it's support behind Emanuel Constant, whose role in past Praph atrocities well documented. The crowds who welcomed the US troops will be driven to oppose their role which as always is to protect capitalism using the illusion of democracy.

GET INVOLVED !

- We invite you to write to us, and to the groups listed below. (Write if you want listed)
- Active Distro, BM Active, London WC1N 3XX (catalogue 29p stamps & sae)
 - AK Distribution, 22 Lutton Place, Edinburgh (write for catalogue)
 - Anarchist Black Cross, POBOX 3241, Birmingham B83 DP (prisoner solidarity)
 - Anarchist Commune, 84b Whitechapel High St, London E1 7QX
 - Anarchists in London Fax 071 326 0353 (24 hours) to contact Contraflow, 56a Infoshop, Anarchist Black Cross, 121 Centre, and Bad Attitude.
 - Angry People, PO Box 183, Waterloo, NSW 2017 Australia
 - Bad Attitude, 121 Railton Road, London, SE24 0L, UK. Tel: 071-978 9057
 - The Centre, 103 Broughton St., Edinburgh EH1. Tel: 031-557 0718
 - Class War : PO Box 1021, Edinburgh EH8 9PW : PO Box 772, Bristol BS99 1EL PO Box 4297, Dublin 1, IRELAND (groups Britain-wide & international): Contraflow, 56a Infoshop, 56 Crampston St., London E17 (excellent news-sheet)
 - DS4A, Box 8, 82 Colston St., Bristol (mail order distribution)
 - Kate Sharpley Library, BM Hurricane, London WC1 3XX.(also publishers)
 - Kaoz? c/o J.Bals, Blekkspognra 39, 1352 Kolsas, Norway.
 - Kommunisti Kranti, Majdoor Library, Autopin Jhuggi, Faridabad-121001, India.
 - London Greenpeace, 5 Caledonian Rd., London N1
 - Norwich Solidarity Centre and Norwich Solidarity Federation : PO Box 73, Norwich NR3 1QD
 - PO Box 51465, Raedene, 2124, Johannesburg, South Africa.(anarchist distro)
 - Scottish Federation of Anarchists (£1 for magazine & sae for news-sheet 1&2); write for contacts: Box 1008, Glasgow G42 8AA.
 - Sheffield Anarchist Group, PO Box 446, Sheffield S1 1NY
 - Stockbridge New Town Solidarity Network, c/o Peace & Justice Resource Centre, St. Johns Church, Princes St., Edinburgh.
 - 255 Pdg Info Shop : write M. Decortes, c/o Libreria Utopia, via Moscova 52, 20121 Milano, Italy. Tel/fax 02-29003324. (write for catalogue)
 - Tottenham Solidarity Network, c/o 72 West Green Rd., London N15
 - Wind Chill Factor, PO Box 81961, Chicago, IL 60681, USA.

DAN DARES DIRECT

ON 28 September hundreds of disabled people and their supporters demonstrated in Oldham town centre. They were protesting about their civil rights bill being thrown out of parliament and calling for an end to discrimination and equal rights for all.

Following the march members of the disabled peoples Direct Action Network (DAN) handcuffed and chained themselves to buses on the main street. Traffic was at a standstill for an hour as demonstrators fought off attempts by the police to remove them. They are demanding accessible public transport for all.

Blitz Blitzed
Over 2,000 people demonstrated their support for the Blitz squatted community centre in Oslo, Norway on the 24th August following the 'fascist' bomb attack on it three days before.

A World To Win

Watteau Riot!

Milan city centre was transformed into a battleground on 10th September. Clashes erupted between police and 20,000 demonstrators opposing the eviction of the long standing Leoncavallo Social Centre. 5 days later the independent, self-managed social centre was granted a legal lease to their newly squatted premises in Via Watteau. Direct action pays! Meanwhile spontaneous strikes hit Turin, Bologna and other northern Italian cities on the 8th September, as workers opposed the Berlusconi government plans to cut pensions.

Blitz Blitzed

Over 2,000 people demonstrated their support for the Blitz squatted community centre in Oslo, Norway on the 24th August following the 'fascist' bomb attack on it three days before.

East Timor

Protests have been held in Darwin, Australia and London following the attack by Indonesian police and military on an unarmed demonstration in the campus of East Timor university on the 14th July. Three students were later killed in custody in military barracks. The demo followed harassment of students by military intelligence agents. Since invading East Timor in 1975, the Indonesian military, supplied with arms by the US, UK and France has brutally suppressed the East Timorese people.

South Africa

300 striking miners staged an underground sit-in at the Anglo-American owned mine in Carlton near Johannesburg. They were later attacked with rubber bullets and stun grenades by security guards.

Feral Fights Back

Croatia's government has failed to suppress the Feral Tribune, an anarchist paper which regularly exposes political corruption and generally makes life difficult for the HDZ's (ruling party's) attempts at strangulating the free press. The minister for culture, Vesne Giradi-Jurkic, has resorted to branding the paper "pornographic", forcing its taxes to the high levels the state collects from pornographic publications. Reports in the mainstream press, which commonly does contain pornography but has avoided any hassle due to its comfty relationship with the government, stated that the Feral Tribune had folded but the new issue is already in the kiosks.

Info: ZAGINFLATCH (English language newsletter), c/o ARK-ZAPO, Tkalciceva 38, 41000 Zagreb, Croatia email:

72500.2176@compuserve.com

COUNTER INFORMATION is produced by an independent collective, based in central Scotland. Our aim for the past 10 years has been to assist in the struggle against all injustice, oppression and exploitation. We invite you to - send us articles and info - subscribe to Counter Info and take bundles of CI to distribute (donation requested) - make a much-needed donation (Stamps welcome, Cheques/P.O.'s to Counter Information. Write for a standing order form.) Please write if you are interested in becoming involved in the CI collective. We can provide addresses of anti authoritarian revolutionary groups and movements to resist injustice (eg anti racist and community solidarity groups) in most areas of Britain and many overseas areas. Collected BACK ISSUES in Folder, £6 from Edinburgh address. For info on CI distribution and revolutionary activities in the north of England please write to: CI, PO Box HP 171, LEEDS, LS6 1XX. For contact with Glasgow CI & all other interests: write COUNTER INFORMATION, c/o 11 FORTH ST., EDINBURGH GE1, SCOTLAND.

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DISOBEY THE CJA

OVER the last 6 months, it has been impossible to avoid the angry reaction to the Criminal Justice/Public Order bills, now Acts in England, Wales & Scotland.

Enraged by being targeted for increased police harassment & the removal of so-called civil liberties, "kill the bill" and now "defy the act" has become the burning issue for thousands of people. Previously separate, marginal groups, with some anxiety and dread, united in action and illegal demos to oppose the CJA.

Early defiance included the opening of collective squats in a disused Cinema in Oxford, NHS trust building in Rugby, disused Church Hall in Swansea and old Courthouse in Brighton, all evicted after violent police assault.

MUSHROOMING

By September '94, actions had mushroomed, with the huge Hyde Park Demo that ended in a pitch battle when cops tried to prevent the movement of a sound system. Ten days after there was a vociferous angry lobby of Parliament. The week following, some weird fluffies tried to levitate Parliament, and following anarchist skirmishes with the cops made the earth move.

After the passing of one of the Acts on November 4th, protesters scaled onto Parliament's roof, and the first charges under the Act were used on Earth First! activists, including a 51 year old woman, in Manchester who had taken over a Crane on a Wimpey

site on Nov.7th. 400 Anti-CJA people invaded the grounds of Michael Howard's (Home Secretary) mansion in Lympne, Kent.

In October & November, illegal evening demonstrations erupted in Glasgow, Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Dundee complete with sound systems and attitude. Faced with 4,000 in Glasgow defying the Act, the police tried to charge two organisers. A 'spontaneous' demo of 150 through the Glasgow city centre a couple of days later marched to the Police station and declared "Charge one, charge us all".

Down south, numerous actions took place, for example in Leicester and Hackney, where a riot took place outside the town hall. Elsewhere, 4,000 demonstrated in leafy North Devon, 20 occupied a Dundee Court to protest against trials of activists and the Labour Council denounced a "rent-a-mob" who disrupted their corrupt business.

BALL BLOOTERED

By December, resistance was widespread. In Cheltenham, 300 who picketed a Fox-Hunting Ball were attacked by police. A mass trespass in Ayrshire to a Tory Huntmaster's mansion after 4 sabs became the first charged under the Scottish CJA; there were 6 arrests in Chelmsford after a prosacked busworker's rally was charged by police during a sitdown protest; a confrontation took place in Stoke between 150 Defiance Alliance activists and Labour MPs protected by Police; 700 tried to invade Chequers, the country retreat of Prime Minister Major; 2000 in Bristol and 400 in Liverpool marched illegally, while a street presence took place in Sheffield and Manchester.

By early January, the focus

EVICTED - BUT THE CENTRE LIVES ON!

A Centre activist reports:

70 POLICE forcibly ended our 6 month occupation of Edinburgh's Broughton St. Centre on 1 December, arresting 21 people. 80 people resisted the surprise eviction for 8 hours. Labour controlled Lothian Region were determined to shut a self-managed community centre involved in direct action struggles.

But the Centre lives on! We immediately found new temporary premises, and continue to give advice and solidarity on benefits and poll/council tax hassles, and to act as a base for

Centre supporters resist eviction in Edinburgh on 1 Dec.. (Photo Craig MacLean)



house roof of a hated Tory MP.

The persecution of hunt sabs continued with two in Kent up on 'aggravated trespass' charges. Further trespasses took place in Edinburgh, when 6 were charged near Rifkind's (Defence Secretary) residence as 200 police provoked the 150 activists. A larger action took place at Windsor Castle with 20 arrests after clashes with 500 cops. Within 4 months, 100 activists, mainly Hunt Sabs had been charged under the CJA.

Back in Scotland, 700 marched in a Coalition demo to the Scottish Office on 21st Jan. The next week, thugs in uniform broke up a demo in Maidstone, Kent, leading to 33 arrests. Among many charges against activists, 3 in Bristol were charged with aggravated trespass after anti-Wimpey solidarity actions.

TANKED UP

Using imagination, an old centurion tank was driven into Downing St. and other early February actions included youths from the 'Salford Firm' turning up in force at a Manchester demo, plus marches in Loughborough and in Birmingham, where 3,000 mobilised. In Newcastle, six riot vans, a helicopter and mounted cops greeted a peaceful (decoy) demo. Meanwhile, 70 activists occupied the

social struggles, such as claimants' resistance and opposition to the M77.

We're still battling to reopen Broughton Street. 200 demonstrated outside the closed Centre on 10 December. On 1 February the drumming at our demo drowned out the Council meeting! Both demos were called without permission, in defiance of the Criminal justice Act.

The struggle for self-managed community spaces is an important part of the struggle for a self-managed world! *Viva la Centre!*

The Centre is in the basement of the St Stephen Centre, St Stephen St (enter by lane at left of building). Open Mon - Friday 12 - 4 pm, meetings Tues 6.30pm, tel 0131 557 5846. Mail to The Centre, c/o Peace & Justice, St Johns, Princes St, Edinburgh. Support eviction defendants - meet 9.30am Sheriff Court, Chambers St. 17 May.

Free festival, Hyde Park, 11/12 June.

Act Local

MASH THE MAC!
McDONALDS are suing Dave Morris and Helen Steel for distributing leaflets telling the truth about the multinational. The trial will probably last till the end of 1995! Supporters of the unwaged London Greenpeace activists are calling for pickets of McDonalds everywhere on 15 April - the company's 40th anniversary. Solidarity actions have occurred in 25 countries worldwide.
McLibel Support Campaign, c/o 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1 9DX. Tel/fax 0171 713 1269. Leaflets £12 per 1,000 from 0115 9585666.

Outrage Arrests
Two 'Outrage' demonstrators were arrested for holding placards 'Iran murders queers' and 'Islam Nazis behead and burn queers' outside an Islamic Fundamentalist conference in Wembley which drew attention to the estimated 4,000 lesbians and gay men killed since 1980 in Iran.

Wheelchair Blockade
40 demonstrators, many in wheelchairs, invaded Harrods on Nov 18 to protest against restrictions on disabled shoppers but were ejected roughly by a private security firm. Nearly all shoppers walked out in solidarity. In mid February, 100's blocked roads after a lobby of Parliament by DAN.

Underclass
Opposition to the conditions and proposed closure of Hackney Downs School, London, has united pupils, parents and teachers. In nearby Tiverton Primary School, Tottenham, campaigning parents in January '95, have forced Harriet Council to pass repair funds.

No Bulgarian wine
Bulgarian seamen, without pay for 3 years, have occupied "The Rotolia" klonky fisher vessel in Lerwick, assisted by the solidarity of Shetland Islanders.

Racism destroys us all
Oluwashji Lapite, a 34 year old Nigerian man, was beaten to death in police custody at the infamous Stoke Newton station on 16th Dec '94. 200 demonstrated angrily outside the station shortly after. The UK State begrudgingly asylum to persecuted refugees from the 'third world'. Latest statistics show only 5% of arrivals are granted asylum, with only 20% allowed to stay on 'exceptional leave'. The UK, like other 'Fortress Europe' States is now trying to repatriate Bosnians and Albanians to a warzone & Tamils to Sri Lanka.

Orkney Victory
Good news from Orkney! The closure of beds at Kirkwall's hospital has been stopped after a January demonstration by a third of the island's population.

Future Spent Waste
17 activists were arrested on 1st March at an M6 service station in Cumbria after chaining themselves to a British nuclear lorry.

Non-Payers Winning
Councils are to abandon attempts to collect the whole £1.5 billion of unpaid poll tax the Audit Commission stated. It predicts that by Dec 95 the cost of collection will outweigh the income gained for many Councils in England and Wales. Lothian Council chiefs are set to write off £15m of debts. Solidarity with non-payers: APTPs 0131 556 0903; 0141 552 1179.

Sara Thornton

IN OCTOBER 1994 Sara Thornton, jailed for killing her husband after suffering years of abuse from him, came off a 40 day hunger strike.

Sara was protesting at the length of time the Home Office are taking to respond to new evidence presented to them regarding her case.

Please send letters of support to Sara Thornton, HMP Styall, Wilmslow, Cheshire SU 94RH. Another woman unjustly jailed for killing her abuser in self-defence is Emma Humphreys - info from Justice for Women, 55 Rathcoole Gdns, London N8 9NE. Tel. 081 340 3699.

No natural born killer!

One of the thousands of prisoners of colour is Norma Jean Croy a Shasta Indian from California, shot in the back by a drunken police officer in 1978 and convicted of murder even although her co-accused was later freed at a retrial.

Self defence is no offence
In 1986 Satpal Ram was violently attacked by 6 white men whilst eating in an Indian restaurant in Birmingham.

He was stabbed with a broken glass and had to defend himself the same way. Satpal and his attacker were both taken to hospital where Satpal needed stitches and his attacker refused treatment; he died 2 hours later.

THE MEN OF VIOLENCE - BRITISH TROOPS

Despite the ceasefire, 17,000 British soldiers and 15,000 armed RUC police continue to harass Irish people - and to meet resistance.

In February the Irish Times reported soldiers "blocking off roads, abusing people, making victory signs" in south Armagh.

In East Tyrone harassment reported in January included house raids (one involving 100 police and soldiers), lengthy detentions of people going to mass, and intimidatory attempts to recruit informers.

On 16 November a man was hospitalised by paratroopers in Belfast. A British army patrol clashed with locals in Newry on 5 November.

Meanwhile Tories orchestrate a campaign to free Private Clegg, convicted of murdering 18 year old Karen Reilly in W.Belfast in 1990. Karen and 17 year old Martin Peake - youngsters with no paramilitary connections - were shot dead as their stolen car drove away from a paratrooper patrol.

Year Zero

Unjust Desserts

IN JANUARY 8 Scottish prisoners (or more) went on hunger strike in support of the Glasgow 2 - Joe Steele and Tommy Campbell who were jailed for life in 1984 for torching a house as part of the so-called 'Ice Cream war', a violent dispute over mobile shop territories. A family died in the blaze.

The Glasgow 2 have passionately protested their innocence. Joe Steele has frequently escaped to publicise the case, once even chaining himself to the gates of Buckingham Palace. Recently he was captured sneaking out of Perth top security dressed as a nurse! Tommy Campbell has long been held in Special Units, and is part of the hunger strike.

Now evidence of wrongful conviction has been officially suppressed. The Scottish police and judiciary continue with their 'couldn't happen here' lies about miscarriages of justice. The media has ignored the hunger strike, probably on Scottish Office instructions.

Counter Info would be grateful for any news about the G2 campaign and the hunger strike.

fake a "car injury".

British soldiers have killed 160 unarmed civilians in N.Ireland since 1969.

Rotten Beyond Repair

THE CHILD Support Agency is failing apart due to pressure from campaigns. Set up ostensibly to help lone parents, in reality almost all money clawed back from 'absent fathers' goes straight into Treasury coffers.

A recent enquiry into the CSA won some minor victories, recognising clean-break financial settlements, etc. Grass-roots pressure on CSA sex-spies is causing havoc in Agency offices where morale is low, crack-ups are commonplace, and complicated case files are conveniently 'lost'. Three-quarters of claims are wrongly assessed. The Tories have announced that 30,000 'pending' cases of lone parents on benefits have been "suspended indefinitely". No action is to be taken against 50,000 lone parents who refused to co-operate with the CSA. This is a major victory for grass-roots non-co-operation, especially since it was revealed that, even with no new cases, it will take the CSA 3 years to clear its backlog of 400,000 cases.

Don't co-operate with the CSA. Like the hated poll tax, we

COUNTER INFORMATION

No end to discontent

The South African government is facing increasing opposition by the black working class as it attempts to deliver its electoral promises. 3,000 former members of the ANC's military wing, Umkhonto we

Sizwe, who've been integrated into the white dominated SA army went AWOL in response to their maltreatment and squalid conditions.

Bus drivers in Johannesburg blockaded the city centre during the evening rush hour as part of their pay rise demands. Meanwhile, in the townships, the 10-year boycott of rent and electricity, water and rubbish collection rates has intensified since last year's elections with more than 80% of residents refusing to pay.

A World to Win

Bolger the codger.

Militant Maoris forced the New Zealand government to abandon the national-day celebrations at Waitangi, where Maori chiefs signed a treaty giving sovereignty to Britain. On 6th Feb., the 400 protesters, who say Maoris have been tricked by the government's plans for the final land claim settlements, tried to set fire to the building where the treaty was signed, spat at the Governor-General, stamped on the New Zealand flag, prevented Prime Minister Jim Bolger speaking and threw punches at the government's top Maori official, Wira Gardiner. It's the first time the ceremonies have had to be cancelled.

Forcing Climdowns
Despite the climbdown of Prime Minister Edouard Balladur over new rules which would prevent 100,000 students at technology institutes from entering universities to protest in Nantes, Toulouse and Paris, among other cities on 10th February, demanding that they be scrapped completely and not just suspended until consultation with teachers and students.

Anarchist offensive
Police arrested 60 anarchists before a march commemorating the student uprising in 1973 (which led to the fall of the military dictatorship). On the previous day, Nov 16, anarchists fought police for several hours. Hundreds of anarchists occupied the Polytechnic School - the march's starting point and a symbol of the uprising - to demand the release of those seized in the police raids and were supported by 100's outside. On 11 Jan, in central Athens, 100's of anarchists again fought police after breaking away from a student demo and smashing bank and shop windows. 5 people were arrested.

Who decides?
Although French abortion clinics continue to suffer attacks, pro-choice protesters are fighting back. On Jan 17, the 20th anniversary of legal abortion, 300 demonstrated to demand less restrictions and, on the 22nd, pro-choicers hung a banner from the top of Notre Dame cathedral proclaiming it to be a 'Free contraception and abortion clinic' while 200 people demonstrated outside. The action coincided with a large anti-choice demo in Paris backed by US anti-abortionists. (*Bad Attitude* Feb 95)

Bangladesh strikes

On 14th February, workers camping for better wages and job security took part in a 6-hour general strike in protest at the killing of two comrades by police.

Shell means Hell
The run-up to the trial of Ken Saro-Wiwa, a major figure in the Ogoni people's fight against Shell's devastation of their land in Rivers State, has seen the leaking of official documents proving that the military government destroyed many villages, torturing and murdering up to 1,800 people. They also indicate that Shell paid for the military operation. 300,000 Ogoni people have protested at the destruction of farmland, oil spills, air pollution and water contamination caused by the government's and Shell's pursuit of profit.

Solidarity with Chiapas

In December 1994 the Mexican government was forced to lower the value of the peso thus forcing down workers' wages and putting all public welfare spending on hold. The US government stepped in to offer a loan package of \$40 billion but with the provision that Mexico pays back all its oil revenue and surrenders its ownership of some government owned institutions. The US Chase Bank has also asked the Mexican authorities to 'stabilise the country', i.e. quell the Chiapas uprising.

These developments have not gone unchallenged:

actions against Bancomer, Banco Mexicano and Chase Manhattan banks. 130 protest outside Mexican consulate then head to Chase Bank.

- 14 Feb: Vermont, US; demos in 8 towns and cities. Venice, Italy; 100 people occupy Mexican consulate.
- 16 Feb: Detroit, US; protest with banners reading, 'Peasants are not collateral'.

Chase Bank has been targeted due to its internal memo, written by Riordan Roet, which said: 'the government [in Mexico] will need to eliminate the Zapatistas to demonstrate their effective control of the national territory and security policy'.

Chase Manhattan have a Free Phone number for International Calls (813) 884 2997 and within the US 1 (800) 545 0465. Call them and let them know how you feel. Amor y Rabia, A.P. 11-351, CP 06101, Mexico DF, Mexico.

Mexico City, On Nov 8 a McDonalds was ransacked by 40 masked people. The windows were broken, cash registers were thrown on the floor as well as rubbish. The demo was to protest Proposition 187 which is a Californian (USA) "anti-immigration" proposal.

Demos in support of the EZLN outside Mexico:

- 12, 13 Feb: New York sabotage

Natural Born Resisters

Scattered militant actions occur throughout USA & Canada involving anti-authoritarian networks.

On Sunday 5th February, 500 demonstrated in downtown Albuquerque, New Mexico, against anti-immigrant measures in states such as Florida & California. Over half of those present were Hispanic, with virtually no leftists present.

The previous day, in Toronto a violent confrontation at Kennedy subway station left 2 Nazis and 2 anti-fascists injured and the media blamed the anti-fascists despite the fact that one had 3 stomach wounds and a serious neck wound. This followed a similar incident in Minneapolis which led to Kieran Fraizer Knutson being charged for attacking a known nazi after he assisted the defence of an anti-racist demo on Minnesota campus. To highlight their opposition to the state's trumped up charges, 40 activists occupied the Chief Attorney's office on January 27th.

On Feb 18th, 80 Antioch College students in Columbus, Ohio, were brutally attacked by police after one demonstrator was arrested for trespassing during a protest against cuts to student aid programmes.

Other recent examples of anti-fascist resistance include the disruption of a speech by Nazi apologist, David Irving on Oct 13th at Berkeley camp. Literature was trashed & the cops had to intervene to protect Irving & his elite guards from the 75 direct actionists. A fortnight later, riots broke out in Lexington, Kentucky after cops shot a black youth dead in cold blood.

Denmark: The working class district of Norrebro, Copenhagen celebrated the New Year in style when shops and banks were attacked. The night's events culminated in the trashing of a recently opened McDonald's restaurant by about 400 first-footers.

A FIGHT FOR ALL

THE PEOPLE in Pollok, Priesthill, Darnley, and Corkerhill have little enough: crap housing and low living standards. But no suffering is great enough to command the guilt of those who profit by the oppressive organisation of our society.

The process of taking from those who have already been robbed continues with the theft of the land given to the people of Glasgow : Pollok Estate. We have so little and still they take; it is not enough to ask them to return it - we need to fight back !



School students resisting the M77

So goes the cry at Pollok Free State, the anti-roads camp set up in defiance to the M77. The immoral and illegal contract between Strathclyde Region and Wimpey carves up the 1018 acre Pollok Estate, one of Glasgow's few remaining green belt areas. Already trees are being felled and hundreds are attempting to halt the work.

Roads protests in England have been determined, and costly to the profiteering rapists of our earth. Construction companies Norwest Holst (costs rise from £37.51m) Murphy (£4m costs doubled) and Christian & Nielsen (50% over budget) have all lost cash due to direct action protest. The 500 strong anti M11 occupation of Claremont Road, east London took 200 bailiffs, 700 police and 400 security guards a week to destroy at a cost of £2m., in late November.

Anti-roads protesters have used their power in a huge variety of resourceful and imaginative ways.

Sorting out the Management

"All out Now!", was the rallying cry of postal workers during a wildcat strike. Within a day, 15,000 North-West and West London Royal Mail workers had brought the capital's deliveries to a grinding halt.

Fed up with increased workload and the undermining of health & safety due to new "computer assisted" management directives, a 3 day strike involving 650 occurred in early January against disciplinary measures. The simmering discontent

Earth First! in Manchester have been squatting Wimpey cranes (one for 64 hours) in solidarity with Pollok.

Throughout roads campaigns people are taking control over their architecture and their fight for a decent environment. The Anti-M65 and Anti-M77 campaigns have both produced amazing and defiant living quarters. 17 tree houses have been built in Stanworth Valley, Lancs to defy the M65. Hundreds of kids run free in the Pollok Free State. Pupils at Bellarmino Secondary have formed a Students Union which demands it be recog-

nised and granted the right to leave school to protest. As this has been denied they are on strike and fighting for, in their words, 'our future'.

Two 14-year-olds and two 12 year-olds were arrested in February along with an increasing number of Pollok Free State citizens. The campaign continues with tree-squatting, aerial feats, barricade building, chainsaw interrupting and attempts at persuading the security to change sides. On 25 Feb., after a 3,000 strong illegal anti Criminal Justice Act march, 200 tore down the fence round Wimpey's compound and swarmed over the machinery.

Pollok and the anti-M65 campaigns both desperately need your strength; what is being destroyed can never be fully reclaimed. But we can reclaim our own power. Govern yourself.

Pollok Free State, Barrhead Rd., Glasgow G53. Tel 0860 728244, Glasgow Earth First!, 3 George St., Paisley - 0142 946 2700, No M65 - 0172 704103, No M11-0181 558 2638. EF!Action Update, Dpt.29, 1 Newton St. Manchester

exploded on 19th Jan when 150 posters were suspended. Unofficial action broke out, with management hurriedly withdrawing disciplinary action against two Glasgow workers to avoid countrywide escalation.

The mood of defiance was matched by the chant -"We've got you now..." but in stepped the union to defuse the action. They got the suspensions lifted but ignored the "speed up" practices that have caused the unrest. Then the courts slapped a fine of £7,500 + legal costs of £100,000 on to the postal workers union. This is an attempt to force union leaders to police an angry workforce. More unrest is predicted.

Clause 4? Class war!

LABOUR leader Tony Blair wants rid of Clause 4, which supposedly commits Labour to "common ownership of the means of production".

Blair is making Labour more Tory than the Tories, in a desperate bid for power. So should we defend Clause 4?

We say NO. Every Labour government - all "committed" to Clause 4 - has run the capitalist economy and put profits first. Last time in power (1974-79) Labour held down wages through the Social Contract and savagely cut social services.

What's more for Labour "common ownership" means nationalisation. But nationalised industries still operate for profit. They still have a hierarchical structure. They are just another form of capitalism - state capitalism, collective ownership by the ruling class.

Real common ownership means grass-roots workers and community control - no bosses, no managers. It means production for human need - no profit motive, no buying and selling. It means "from each according to their abilities, to each according to their needs".

DOING IT FOR OURSELVES

Real change will never come through parliament. More people in Britain realise this and are taking direct action against injustice.

Blockades of lorries transporting animals, defying the Criminal Justice Act, stopping motorway building, wildcat strikes. This mass direct action achieves immeasurably more than empty arguments over Labour's constitution. And the experience encourages a much-needed rejection of passivity and consumerism.

Ultimately direct action is the way that humanity can take control of the "means of production", and create global community with genuine common ownership and real equality and freedom.

GET INVOLVED !

We invite you to write to us, and to the groups listed below. (Write if you want listed)

- Active Distro, BM Active, London WC1N 3XX (catalogue 29p stamps & sae)
- AK Distribution, 22 Lutton Place, Edinburgh (write for catalogue)
- Anarchist Black Cross, c/o 121 Railton Rd., London SE24 (prisoner solidarity).
- Anarchist Communist Federation, 84b Whitechapel High St, London E1 7QX
- Anarchist Womens Newsletter, POBox 51, c/o Greenleaf, 82 Colston St., Bristol
- Anarchists in London Fax 071 326 0353 (24 hours) to contact Contraflow, 56a Infoshop, Anarchist Black Cross, 121 Centre, and Bad Attitude.
- Angry People, PO Box 183, Waterloo, NSW 2017 Australia.
- Bad Attitude, 121 Railton Road, London, SE24 0L, UK. Tel: 071-978 9057
- The Centre, c/o Peace & Justice, St.Johns, Princes St., Edinburgh(mail only)
- Class War : PO Box 1021, Edinburgh EH8 9PW : PO Box 772, Bristol BS99 1EL
- PO Box 4297, Dublin 1, IRELAND (groups Britain-wide & international):
- Contraflow, 56a Infoshop, 56 Crampton St., London SE17 (excellent news-sheet)
- DS4A, Box 8, 82 Colston St., Bristol (mail order distribution)
- Industrial Workers of the World, 75 Humbertstone Gate, Leicester LE1 1WB
- Kate Sharpley Library, BM Hurricane, London WC1 3XX.(also publishers)
- Kaos?, c/o J.Bals, Blekksoppgrende 39, 1352 Kolsas, Norway.
- Kommunist Kranti, Majdoor Library, Autopin Jhuggi, Faridabad-121001, India.
- London Greenpeace, 5 Caledonian Rd., London N1
- Norwich Solidarity Centre/Solidarity Fed.: PO Box 73, Norwich NR3 1QD
- PO Box 51465, Raedene, 2124, Johannesburg, South Africa.(anarchist distro)
- Scottish Federation of Anarchists (£1 for magazine & sae for news-sheet): write for contacts: Box 1008, Glasgow G42 8AA.
- Sheffield Anarchist Group, PO Box 446, Sheffield S1 1NY
- 255 PgD Info Shop : write M. Decortes, c/o Libreria Utopia, via Moscova 52, 20121 Milano, Italy. Tel/fax 02-29003324. (write for catalogue)
- Tottenham Solidarity Network, c/o 72 West Green Rd., London N15
- Wind Chill Factor, PO Box 81961, Chicago, IL 60681, USA.

NEW ADDRESS : COUNTER INFORMATION, C/O TRANSMISSION, 28 KING ST., GLASGOW G1 5QP (mail only)

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